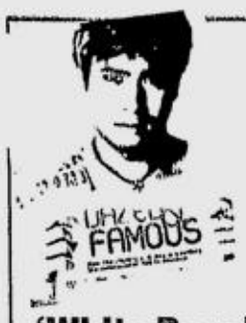

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

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NEWS /A2

Officials of Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City apologize for the death of 7 newly-born infants from blood infection. 5 others are also infected. DOH orders delivery room closed as its probe continues.

'White Revolution' keeps faith with RP milk industry

By Maria Congee S. Gomez
Contributor

THE FACTS SELDOM SHOCK SONA ROY NOW.

The country is 97 percent dependent on milk importations. In 2004, the country imported P3 billion worth of infant formula products, according to a recent report. The rural dairy industry is given marginal attention, Roy says, leaving

WHITE/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, October 15, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 309 P18 website: www.inq7.net

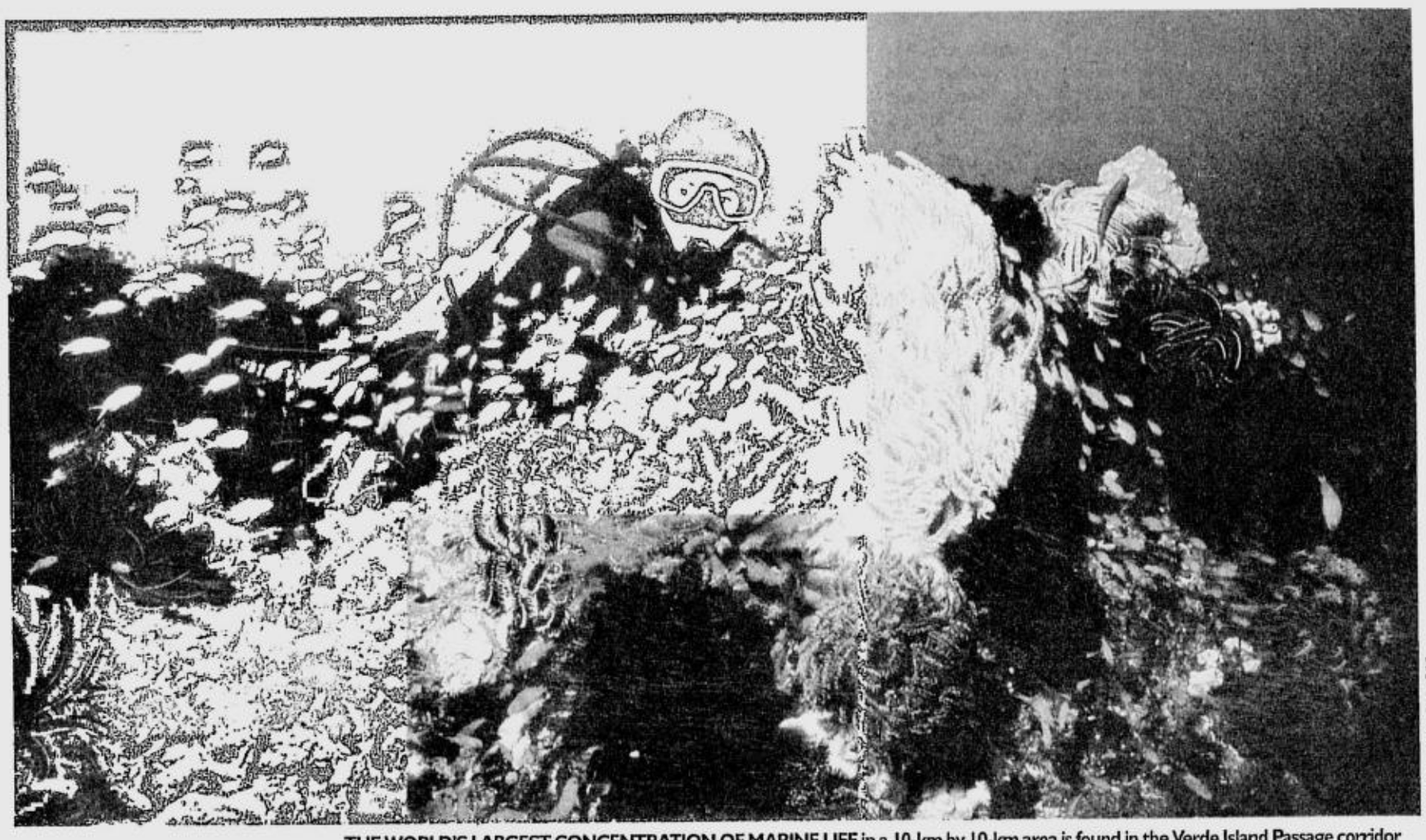
Sex, mice and videotape: Where was Mickey Mouse?

LOS ANGELES—IT'S A scene you'd never see in a Disney cartoon: Minnie Mouse struggling to free herself as she is grabbed from behind by Goofy.

The digital video of Disney characters, shot in a backstage dressing

SEX/ A8

Palace bows to CA ruling



YVETTE LEE CONTRIBUTOR

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF MARINE LIFE in a 10-km by 10-km area is found in the Verde Island Passage corridor located between Batangas and Mindoro. Experts dub it "the center of the center of the center of the world's marine shore fish biodiversity."

Brion says court now has last say in nursing case

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana and Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG IS LEAVING the cheating scandal involving the nursing licensure examination entirely in the hands of the courts, specifically the decision on who among the examinees who had registered with the three implicated review centers should be subjected to a retake.

"Now that the courts have spoken, it is up to the courts to decide the whole matter," Labor Secretary Arturo Brion told the INQUIRER yesterday.

On Friday, the appellate court ruled that those who passed the exam conducted outside Metro Manila and Baguio and those who did not attend the "final

PALACE/ A8

WHAT'S INSIDE

Why Willie, Liz and their lawyers are not talking: Law says all records on cases of violence vs women, children are confidential.

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

Whose house is it anyway? An English country-style house here was featured in a recent Architectural Digest issue. No names. Except for Mario Buatta, architect/designer of museums, historical sites (Blair House in DC), for Upper East Side New Yorkers, and of late this unnamed Filipino businessman with taste as scrumptious as his bank account. Who is it?

LIFESTYLE / C1

At 76, Clint Eastwood makes back-to-back films, and Ryan

Philippe says: "It makes you feels less of a man to be around Clint."

ENTERTAINMENT/ H1

LIKE AMAZON RIVER BASIN

RP world center of marine treasures

By Blanche S. Rivera

OFF THE COAST OF BATANGAS, ONLY about 60 feet underwater, is a thriving, throbbing marine rainforest, a place experts call the world's blue water version of the Amazon River basin.

Familiar only to divers and local fishermen, the Verde Island passage has been found to have 1,736 overlapping marine species in a 10-km by 10-km area, the largest concentration of marine life in the world.

Concern over the need to protect the treasures beneath the waters of Verde Island has been raised in the wake of the recent massive oil spill that wrecked marine resources around Guimaras Island.

Located between the province of Batangas and the island of Mindoro, the Verde Passage corridor is dubbed "the center of the center of the center of the world's marine shore fish biodiversity."

"You have a very, very special marine natural heritage," American marine biologist Kent Carpenter, global marine

RARE: Pygmy seahorse no bigger than a fingernail. YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

species assessment coordinator of World Conservation Union, said in a forum on marine biodiversity in Makati on Friday.

Carpenter and fellow researcher Victor Springer of the Smithsonian Institution were the ones who discovered in 2004 that the Philippines, not Indonesia, was the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity in the world.

Straddling the Indo-Malaya-Philippines archipelago (IMPA), the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape occupies an area of 900,000 square kilometers and supports some 35 million people.

The seascape is at the heart of the coral triangle which accounts for 50 percent of the world's coral reefs and is recognized as the center of the highest concentration of marine biodiversity in the world.

Carpenter, who has been doing comparative studies of marine resource concentration in the IMPA, found that central Philippines is the center of that center of marine biodiversity.

And at the heart of that is little-known Verde Island.

The site with the second greatest number of species is in Palau Bintan in Indonesia, which has 1,670 species in a 10 by 10 km area.

RP WORLD/ A19

Nurses' group hails order of appeals court

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE ALLIANCE OF NEW NURSES (ANN) yesterday hailed the decision of the Court of Appeals allowing some 16,000 of them to take their oath and receive their license to practice, and expressed the hope that other parties would not prolong their agony by contesting the decision in the Supreme Court.

"Our group is happy with the decision. At least the 16,000 of us can move on," Renato Aquino Jr., president of the organization formed by passers of the tainted nursing licensure examination, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "We also appeal to the other party not to

NURSES/ A8

Palace wants media opened to foreign owners

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG WANTS THE MASS MEdia opened to foreign ownership in the proposed changes to the Constitution to boost the standards of local newspapers and broadcast stations and bring them at par with global leaders.

This was disclosed yesterday by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who said that there was enough time to hold a plebiscite for Charter change should the Supreme Court uphold the legality of the people's initiative undertaken by the Palace-backed Sigaw ng Bayan.

"I am sure there will be foreigners who will be interested to have a large share or to have ownership of mass media in order to improve their management," Ermita said in an interview on dzRH radio.

The Constitution limits ownership and management of media entities to Filipinos and Filipino-owned corporations.

Statistics obtained from the National Telecommunications Commission showed that, as of 2002, there were 369 AM radio stations, 583 FM stations and 225 television stations in the country.

A 2003 tri-media directory for Metro Manila listed eight English language broadsheets, 13 tabloids, nine TV stations and 43 AM-FM radio stations.

Ermita cited the mass media as an example of how decades-old foreign equity restrictions in the Constitution had hampered the country's economic development.

"A good example is the management and ownership of media for the reason that Filipinos do not have enough capital to fix up mass media," he said.

Ermita said opening mass media to foreign ownership would have the same positive impact as allowing full foreign equity in the mining industry.

By removing these foreign equity restrictions in the Constitution, Ermita said the government had a better chance of uplifting the lives of Filipinos.

While the Philippines has adopted a presidential form of government patterned after that of the United States, in contrast to the parliaments in most of

PALACE/ A19

A SON'S FAREWELL: Denzel Jess, 3, salutes his father, Chief Insp. Jess Mendez, who's part of the second batch of the UN contingent to East Timor, before he leaves Camp Crame on Saturday. Formal send-off rites will be held this morning. JAN BONDOC

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/14/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rain

Hospital apologizes for baby deaths

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

RIZAL MEDICAL CENTER OFFICIALS HAVE ISsued an apology to the seven mothers who lost their babies to neonatal sepsis at the Pasig hospital but they maintained that they did everything possible to protect the children.

The officials said conditions at the hospital were difficult on Oct. 4, the day 28 mothers delivered, partly because of the after-effects of Typhoon "Milenyo." Water lines had not been restored while a power transformer had exploded earlier that day, cutting electricity to the facility.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has formed a five-person probe committee, composed of four government health officials and a private doctor, to determine how the infants were infected.

But a mother of one of the seven newborn babies who died of neonatal sepsis at the medical center has advised expectant mothers to avoid the hospital.

"They should choose a clean hospital where doctors will really take care of them," said Janice de la Cruz, 23, of Mandaluyong City said.

De la Cruz's daughter Allisone, who died at the hospital just three days after she was born, was her firstborn.

Allisone was one of 28 babies born in the Pasig hospital on Oct. 4. At least 12 of the babies developed neonatal sepsis, a bacterial infection, and seven died.

"That is not enough. They will just say sorry and that's it? The lives of our children were lost," said De la Cruz who wants justice for her lost child and for the others.

She said she had yet to talk to the other grieving mothers. She said a number of groups and a television station were helping to organize them so they could file a complaint against the hospital.

According to hospital records, of the 12 infants who developed neonatal sepsis, five stayed on at the hospital from the time they were born because they showed early signs of infection. Seven babies were checked out by their parents but were brought back after two days.

Two of the babies who remained at the hospital since their birth and five of those who were readmitted died between Oct. 6 and Oct. 8.

There were reports that a few other babies born on other dates also died of sepsis but the hospital has yet to release official records.

A diagram on a white board presentation during a meeting between Duque and hospital officials showed the latest death from neonatal sepsis was recorded on Oct. 10.

Health officials said that while it was possible the infection could have come from hospital equipment that had not been thoroughly sterilized, it was also possible that some of the babies who were taken home after delivery could have gotten the infection outside the hospital, or from their mothers who might have been infected, too.

Duque personally inspected the hospital on Friday and promised that the investigation would be "transparent and independent."

He also ordered the temporary closure of the delivery room and other areas of the hospital while decontamination was going on.

RP keeping eye on developments in Korea

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS Labor Office in South Korea is closely monitoring developments in the Korean Peninsula following North Korea's test firing of its first nuclear weapon on Monday.

Labor Secretary Arturo D. Brion instructed Seoul-based Labor Attache Rodolfo Sabulao to pay particular attention to the South Korean government's reaction to the nuclear test and to alert the Filipino community if there was any threat of war breaking out.

There are about 70,000 documented and undocumented Filipinos in South Korea. There are about 20 in North Korea.

Brion said he had also asked Labor Attache Reydeluz Conferido in Tokyo to watch Japan's reaction to the situation. The test was conducted barely a day after the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abeto to China, which is North Korea's ideological and economic ally.

The secretary said there was "no grievous reason at the moment that would necessitate the evacuation of the overseas Filipino workers from South Korea, China and Japan."

But he said that should war break out, the government has set in place a contingency plan for the evacuation of Filipinos to safer places.

According to Emmanuel Geslani, a consultant of several Manila-based recruitment agencies, OFWs in South Korea would like to stay put.

"They have no plans of leaving South Korea unless total war is declared by North Korea since they do not want a repeat of the evacuation of 6,000 domestic helpers from Lebanon. Since the ceasefire, those workers now want to return to Lebanon because they are jobless in the Philippines," Geslani told reporters.

Quoting Filipino on-site managers of trainee workers in South Korean factories, Geslani said "everything is normal in the cities."

A trainee worker is allowed to stay in South Korea for three years and earns the equivalent of P 50,000-P70,000 monthly including overtime.

Asean congratulates new UN sec-gen

THE ASSOCIATION OF Southeast Asian Nations yesterday congratulated South Korean diplomat Ban Ki-moon on his appointment as the next UN secretary general, becoming the first Asian to hold the position in 35 years.

"We are pleased to extend our sincere congratulations to Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon of the Republic of Korea for his imminent appointment to the post of UN secretary general," the Asean said in a statement late Friday.

The statement, issued by Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, the current Asean chair, noted that Ban will be the first Asian to occupy the seat since Burmese Secretary General U Thant left office in 1971.

"We have worked closely with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon, and have full confidence in his commitment and his ability to lead the United Nations in these very challenging times," the statement added.

The 10-member Asean had supported the candidacy of Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai, who dropped out of the race last week after an informal straw poll showed Ban with a near-certain victory in the contest to succeed Kofi Annan. The statement thanked Surakiart "for his vigorous campaign as Asean candidate."

Ban, 62, has been South Korea's foreign minister for more than two-and-a-half years and served as national security adviser to two presidents—jobs that focused on relations with North Korea. He has served as a diplomat for nearly 40 years, including previous stints at the UN and in Washington.

Ban has been at the forefront of South Korea's nuclear negotiations with North Korea and has said he plans to travel there as secretary general, something Annan never did. He said last month he would use the authority of the UN position to promote peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula "and pursue a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue."

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AP

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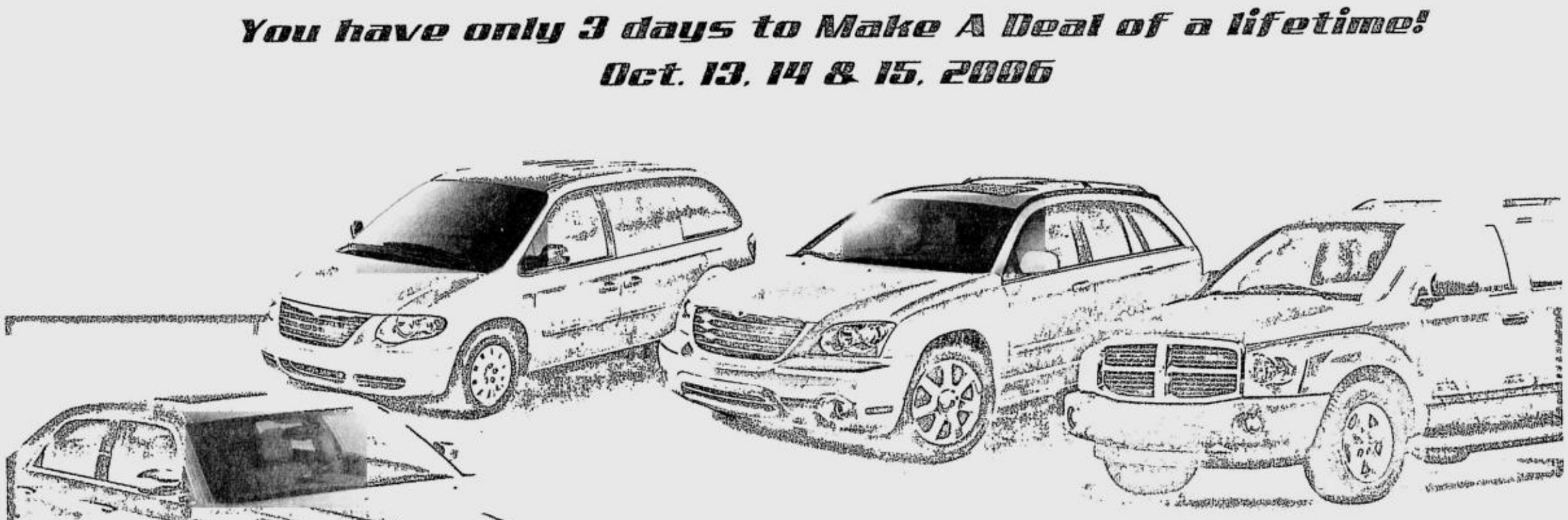

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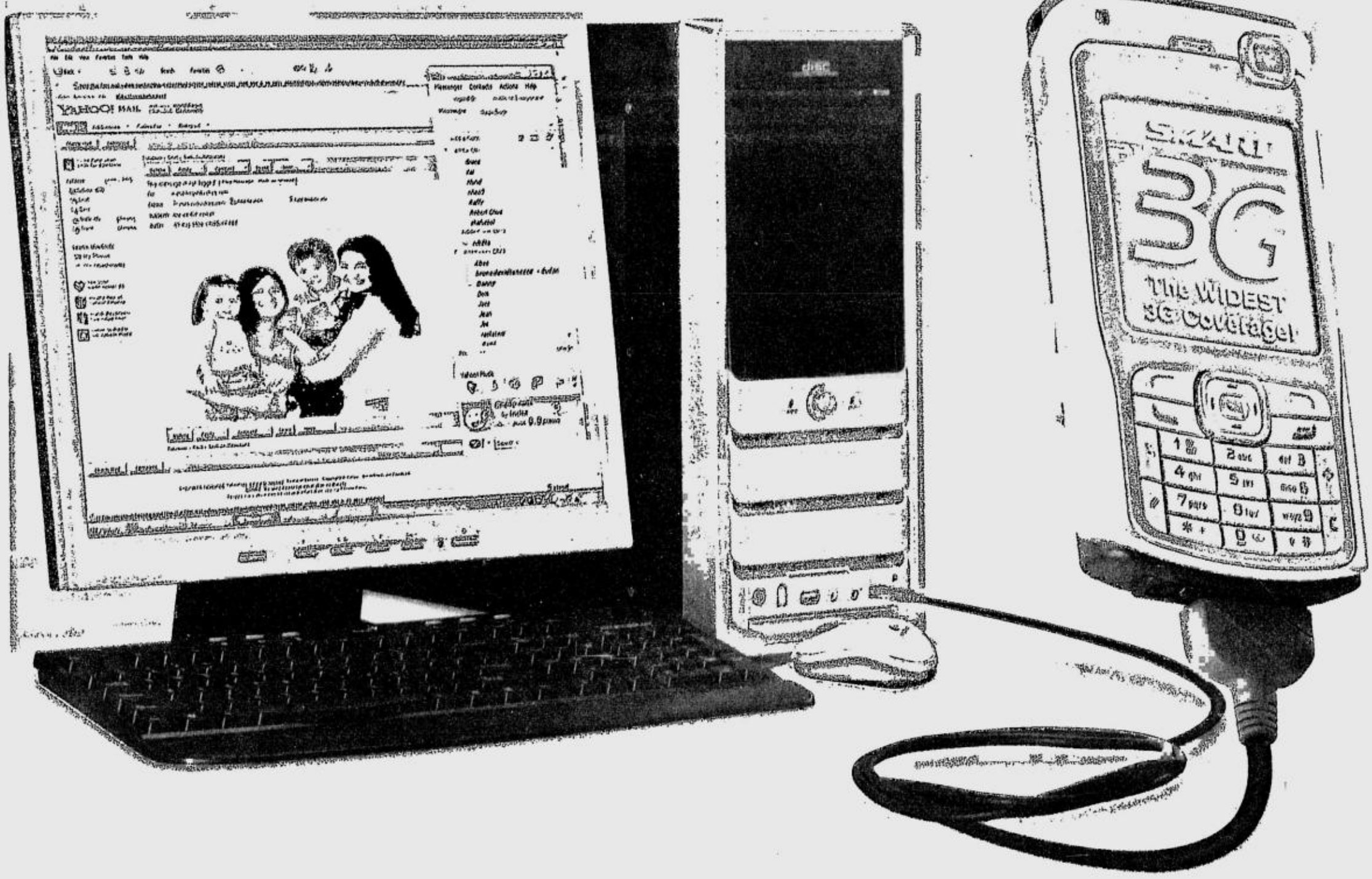

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House to focus on Cha-cha with '07 budget out of way

By Philip C. Tubeza

WITH THE 2007 NATIONAL BUDget out of the way, the predominantly pro-administration House of Representatives is getting ready to make its big push for Charter change (Cha-cha).

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday the House would tackle two controversial resolutions—House Resolutions 1230 and 1285—calling on Congress to hold a Constituent Assembly after it resumes session on Nov. 6.

Administration Representatives Isidoro Real Jr. and Mauricio Domogan said the passage of the P1.126-trillion national budget after 18 hours of marathon debates now gives the House adequate time to push for Charter change. They said the House could convene a constituent assembly next month and approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Nograles said the majority bloc was hoping the Supreme Court "would beat them to it" by upholding the people's initiative launched by Sigaw ng Bayan and other pro-Cha-cha groups.

Petitions questioning the legality of the pro-administration signature campaign or people's initiative have been filed by anti-Cha-cha groups, including the Senate.

"It will depend on the outcome of the Supreme Court ruling but we definitely have time for Cha-cha," Nograles said.

"I am confident that the court won't disregard the people's desire by reason of mere technical problems," he added.

Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines had asked the Supreme Court to uphold their attempt to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

They also asked the high tribunal to order the Commission on Elections to comply with the provisions of Article 12 of the Constitution and set the date for a plebiscite on the amendments being proposed by its people's initiative petition.

But anti-Cha-cha civic group OneVoice said the court should dismiss the petition since Republic Act No. 6735, or The Initiative and Referendum Act, was not sufficient to allow the exercise of a people's initiative. And even assuming that RA 6735 was a sufficient enabling law, OneVoice said the scope of a people's initiative was limited to amendments and did not extend to revision of the Constitution.

Nograles scored Cha-cha critics, saying that the public should be left to decide in a plebiscite whether to approve the proposed amendments or not.

"What are they afraid of? That the people will vote for change? Are they afraid that they will be on the wrong side of the fence again?" he said.

"If we can reconcile House Resolutions 1230, which was approved by the committee on constitutional amendments, and 1285 filed by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, and spend marathon debates on these, then we can certainly beat our deadline for Cha-cha," Real said.

He said he was confident that Speaker Jose de Venecia could provide the leadership needed to reconcile the two pending resolutions.

"The Speaker's diplomatic tact is instrumental in the reconciliation of these Con-Ass resolutions and their timely approval by the House," Domogan said.

Pope Benedict to bring back Latin Mass

VATICAN CITY—THE RETURN to grace of the Roman Catholic Church's old-style Latin Mass is expected to extend a hand to estranged traditionalist Catholics but threatens to complicate the life of the Church.

Pope Benedict XVI is expected to soon sign a decree authorizing the old Mass introduced at the Council of Trent in the 16th century to be celebrated alongside the Mass promulgated following the 1962-65 Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

The change was not just a question of language—the new Mass can also be said in Latin—but of theological outlook.

The Council of Trent or Tridentine Mass emphasizes the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. The new Mass introduced by Pope Paul VI places greater weight on the participation of lay people, hence, the turn to modern languages and greater reliance on biblical texts.

Congregations are enjoined to exchange a sign of peace before the communion, and lay men and women are permitted to distribute communion wafers and, significantly, the priest faces worshippers rather than officiating at the altar with his back to them.

All these changes are rejected by traditionalists, who see them as unacceptable concessions to modernism. Even if the old Latin Mass is reinstated, the traditionalists will continue to reject other changes introduced by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, such as the opening toward other Christian denominations.

Nevertheless, the expected papal decree would be aimed at bringing back to the fold the traditionalist supporters of Bishop Marcel Lefebvre, who died in 1991.

After Lefebvre began ordaining priests and consecrating bishops as part of his efforts to restore the old Mass, Pope John Paul II ex-communicated him.

However, John Paul allowed the old Mass to be said with the prior permission of the bishop of the diocese where it was to be used.

Benedict, who admires the old liturgy, is reported to want to go further by reviving the old Mass, which he said last month "is not the private property of Lefebvre supporters: it is a treasure belonging to the whole Church."

By making the Latin Mass again part of the ordinary life of the Church, the Pope could open the way for the more moderate Lefebvrists to create more parishes in their heartland, France, and further afield, which they have announced their intention of doing.

But Archbishop Robert Le Gall of Toulouse warned that such "bi-ritualism" would be difficult to manage. It would exacerbate differences between modernists and traditionalists and discourage those who had worked hard to develop a theology of the Mass.

In France, he said, "we have done a great deal of formative work on liturgical questions."

Benedict has been a constant critic of the modern Mass. As far back as 1989, he wrote that reform of the liturgy, "has become ever more distant from what was intended by Vatican Two. We have a liturgy that has degenerated into a show, in which there is an attempt to make religion interesting with the help of fashionable follies and seductive moralizing maxims." *AFP*

DILG says Binay has dates wrong

By Norman Bordadora

IS THE ADMINISTRATION TRYing to beat the deadline for the preventive suspension of local officials like opposition leader and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay?

The camp of Binay had claimed the administration was rushing the mayor's preventive suspension in connection with graft charges filed by longtime rival Roberto Brillante to beat an Oct. 16 deadline.

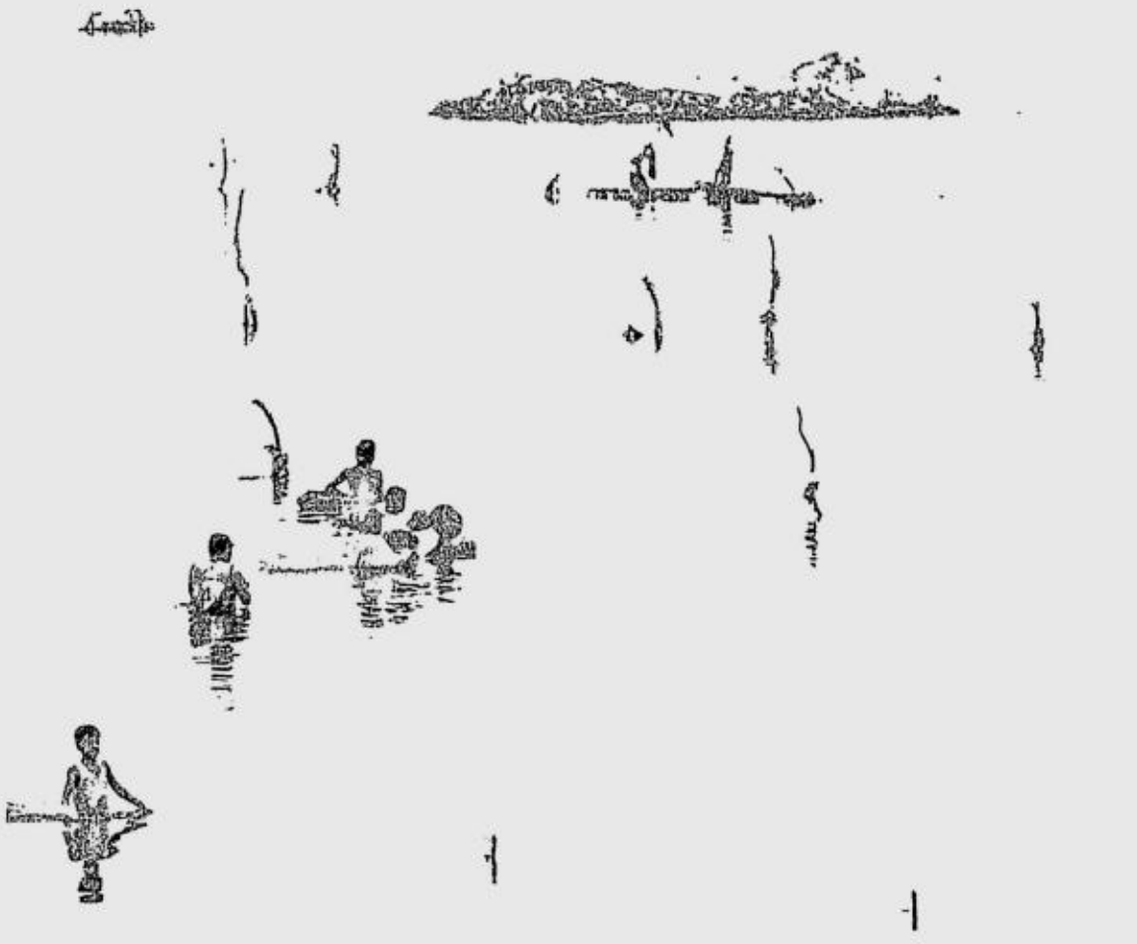
Oct. 16, according to the Binay camp, is 90 days before the start of the election period for the local polls in 2007, and no preventive suspension can be served on local officials after that date, according to the Local Government Code.

A spokesperson for the Department of Interior and Local Government, however, told the INQUIRER that Binay has his dates wrong.

"Our legal department says that under the Local Government Code, the 90-day prohibition on preventive suspensions should be counted from election day itself —whenever that will be as scheduled by the Commission—and not from the start of the election period," said DILG assistant secretary for public affairs Brian Yamsuan.

The Code reads: "... no investigation shall be held within ninety days immediately prior to any local election, and no preventive suspension shall be imposed within the said period."

Yamsuan, however, said that despite the contrasting legal views, the DILG was not pursuing Binay's suspension whether it will be before or after Oct. 16.



SEAFOOD BREAKFAST
Residents along Coastal Road in Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City, wade in the murky waters of Manila Bay looking for seashells. The seafood will be their breakfast on an early Saturday morning. REM ZAMORA

Reyes sets talks on Pasig River rehab

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANgelo Reyes has called Metro Manila mayors to a dialogue on Monday to discuss plans for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River and solid waste disposal programs in the metropolis. They will be joined by environment and waste management experts.

"The problems facing the rehabilitation of the Pasig River and solid waste management in the metropolis are extensive and pervasive. There is now a common sentiment that the first step in addressing these problems is to have a collective executive decision and action," Reyes said.

He said the 27-kilometer Pasig river, a vital waterway and drainageway for the metropolitan area, was heavily polluted, the main sources of pollution being industrial and domestic wastes.

Reyes said data from the National Solid Waste Commission showed that Metro Manila generates 6,000 tons of garbage daily, only an estimated 77 percent of which are collected and disposed of in dumps.

Experts estimate that the 1,380 tons of illegally disposed garbage end up in in the Pasig, the creeks that feed into it and in empty lots.

Aside from the indiscriminate discharge of domestic waste, industries located along the Pasig also throw their untreated waste into the river.

"What next steps to take in addressing these issues will be discussed in the dialogue," Reyes said. *Norman Bordadora*

Bishops: Automation no guarantee 2007 polls will be honest

AUTOMATION DOES NOT NECESsarily translate to clean elections, the Catholic Bishops Conference said yesterday in reaction to the Senate approval of a bill that will see the partial implementation of an automated election system in the 2007 polls.

"Computers and the counting of votes are two different issues. What the people are doubting is the counting of votes, and the credibility of the process would be hard to restore if the agency restoring it is suspected of colluding with the administration in rigging the process," said CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio.

He was apparently referring to the Commission on Elections whose credibility had been tarnished after the release of wiretapped conversations, or the "Hello Garci" tapes, showing President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly plotting with a Comelec official to rig the results of the 2004 elections.

The only way the credibility of the election process can be restored is if there is "a good election," said Quitorio.

"Meanwhile, if the 2007 polls turn out to be clean, then credibility will return. I think it's a next-to-impossible dream, but this will all depend on the leadership of the Comelec," he said.

The lawyer-son of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said legislators could still impeach Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez despite the approaching breaks in the congressional schedule.

Time is not a problem if there is political will, said Aquilino Pimentel III, who is lawyering for the minority senators who petitioned the Supreme Court to review the Ombudsman decision absolving Comelec officials of any criminal liability in the failed P1.3-billion election automation deal.

"If you read the constitutional requirements, the processing is rather fast. The procedure requires a decision in a maximum of 60 days," the younger Pimentel said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

He said an impeachment complaint against Gutierrez may be pursued even if there is a petition questioning her decision before the Supreme Court.

Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

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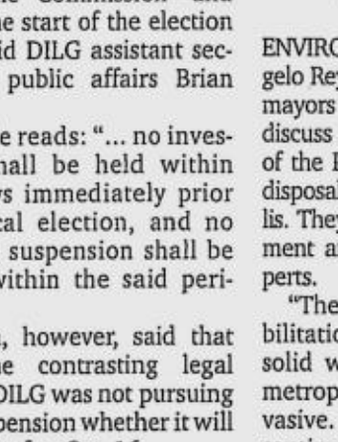

The Congregation for
Catholic Education, Rome,
has confirmed the appointment of
REV. FR. ERNESTO M. ARCEO, O.P.,
as the new Rector of the
University of Santo Tomas.

The ceremonial installation
rites will be held on Thursday,
November 9, 2006 at the
UST Chapel.

Remove air fuel surcharge–TUCP

A TRADE UNION LEADER SAID THERE WAS no longer any reason to impose a fuel surcharge on passenger and cargo air fares in the face of falling petroleum prices and called on the country's three leading commercial carriers—Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Air Inc. and Air Philippines Corp.—to stop collecting it.

"There is absolutely no justification for airlines to continue collecting inordinately high fuel surcharges in the face of the general decline in crude oil prices," said Ernesto Herrera, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

Herrera said airlines around the world had already slashed the extra charges. The latest was Singapore Airlines which cut its fuel surcharge across the board last Friday.

PAL, Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines started imposing fuel surcharges on both passengers and cargo in 2004 when oil prices began to rise.

The Civil Aeronautics Board authorized the increased fees to offset the surge in the price of jet fuel, which accounts for 40 percent of airline operating costs.

"The surcharges were meant to provide temporary relief to airlines. Now that oil prices have gone down considerably, consumers—passengers and shippers—deserve a corresponding respite from the extra fees," Herrera said.

Global crude prices have plunged to their lowest levels since December 2005. This prompted local oil companies to roll back petrol pump prices more than 10 times since September.

Jerome Aning

Surigao fire victims get aid

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL Welfare and Development is rushing relief work and assistance to 2,782 families displaced by the recent fire that hit Barangay Mangagoy, a coastal village along Bislig Bay in Surigao del Sur.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said the victims, most of them fisher folk and small businessmen, would be relocated to a 1-hectare site where temporary tarpaulin shelters will be set up.

In a report to Cabral, DSWD-Caraga Director Araceli Solamillo said at least two persons died and nine were injured in the fire.

Cabral said the affected residents will stay at the relocation site until the local government of Bislig constructs core shelter units for them.

She said the city government was preparing for the relocation of the victims, particularly the 355 families that are currently in seven evacuation centers.

Turned into evacuation sites were the Bongaitan Chapel, Mormon Church, St. Vincent de Paul College, Bongaitan Health Center, Bongaitan Day Care Center, Mangagoy Elementary School and Christian Assistance for Child and Community Development Center Foundation Inc. Other victims are staying with relatives.

Reports said the fire broke out in the kitchen of one of the houses when a boy cooking lunch fell asleep.

Strong winds spread the flames rapidly to neighboring houses, to the nearby public market and commercial buildings.

Cabral said that as of Oct. 9, a total of P2.99 million worth of relief goods from the local government, local donors and the DSWD had been distributed.

These included food, used clothing, assorted goods and financial assistance.

She said the DSWD, through its Caraga field office, had provided 2,000 family packs worth 655,080.

Cynthia D. Balana

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THE 2006 PHILIP MORRIS "WIN A WINTER HOLIDAY" OFFICIAL MECHANICS

1. Promotion period is from October 9 to November 19, 2006.

2. Only adult smokers 18 years old and above (as of October 1, 2006), who are Philippine residents, can enter the PHILIP MORRIS "Win a Winter Holiday" promotion

3. To enter the draw, write your name, address, age (as of October 1, 2006), telephone number and signature on the back of an empty pack of any Philip Morris variant. To entitle your favorite retail store/outlet to cash prizes, you may also include the name and address of said retail store/outlet and the name of the store owner in your empty pack entry

4. Only genuine and original Philip Morris packs – manufactured by Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government health warning and pack seal with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.

5. No photocopies or counterfeits of Philip Morris packs will be allowed. Once submitted, all Philip Morris packs will become the property of PMPMI, including the right to edit, publish, and use the information therein without any consideration or payment to the participant. Raffle entries will not be acknowledged or returned.

6. Drop your entries in drop boxes at authorized retail outlets/drop centers or mail to:

PHILIP MORRIS "WIN A WINTER HOLIDAY" PROMO
c/o Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.
MCC P.O. Box 2338
1226 Makati City

7. All entries must be received by PMPMI not later than November 19, 2006. PMPMI and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, or late entries.

8. The draw will be held on December 9, 2006 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.

The following prizes will be drawn with the corresponding cash prize for the store/outlet owner:

Quantity	Prize	Cash Prize for Store/Outlet Owner
1	Trip for 2 to any winter destination	Php 75,000
10	Sony Ericsson K800i mobile phones	Php 10,000 each
30	Sony DSC-W50 digital cameras	Not applicable
80	Oakley Spike eyewear	Not applicable
120	Samsonite Inventure Duffle Bag	Not applicable

9. The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than December 25, 2006. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Advertisement.

10. Store/outlet owners have a chance to win cash prizes only for the Trip, Sony Ericsson W900i and Sony Cybershot T5 prizes. To qualify, the store/outlet owner must be at least 18 years old. In the event that the winner is also the store/outlet owner, he or she gets to win both the corresponding prize and the cash prize for the store/outlet.

11. If a winning entry does not bear the name and address of the store/outlet, the entry will still be valid but no store/outlet winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.

12. Prizes for winning adult smokers and store/outlet owners will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.

13. The grand prize (Trip for 2 to any winter destination) is non-transferable, but is convertible to cash. In the event the winner fails to secure/ complete necessary documents for the trip such as passport or visa, and/ or does not want to take the trip, the monetary equivalent of the trip which is Php 500,000 shall be awarded. The Php 500,000 will be paid to the winner via check. Minor prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

14. Grand prize winner should avail of the trip before December 30, 2007. They will be provided roundtrip air transportation to the country of choice, accommodations, regular daily meals, local transportation and other provisions as may be determined by PMPMI. Total cost for the trip for 2 should not exceed Php 500,000.

15. PMPMI reserves the right to change the dates, location, and events comprised in the trip or to cancel the trip if prevented or restricted from conducting the trip for reasons outside the control of PMPMI. In the event the trip is cancelled in its entirety, PMPMI will substitute the trip with Php 500,000.

16. Prior to going to the trip, grand prize winner and his/her companion will be required to execute or furnish such documentation as PMPMI may require, including but not limited to good health report, complete liability release, indemnification and waiver, and complete publicity release and undertaking.

17. Grand prize winner must have a valid Philippine passport and be eligible for and successfully secure a visa for the country chosen for the trip. PMPMI does not undertake nor guarantee the issuance of any visa to any of the winners. It will be the sole responsibility of all trip winners to secure their respective visas. PMPMI, however, will provide trip winners written certification pertinent to winning the raffle promotion. Non-eligibility or failure to secure the above mentioned travel documents will result in the awarding of Php 500,000 as monetary equivalent of the trip. All expenditures (e.g. transportation, lodging, fees etc.), that may be incurred in the procurement of their respective visas will be shouldered by the participants.

18. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from PMPMI and two (2) original and valid identification documents [Driver's license, Passport, Birth Certificate] and Tax Identification Number (TIN). The IDs presented (singly or collectively) should show the following information below. If the IDs submitted do not contain the following three (3) pieces of information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth or Age
- Signature

19. In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to PMPMI, he/she must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity, and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.

20. In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim the prize for any reason, he/she can send a proxy. The proxy should be able to present the following:
- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 18)
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.
- Original copy of the notification telegram from PMPMI.

21. Except as expressly provided in paragraph 10, an entrant can only win once. If a person is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of the higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.

22. Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. PMPMI and its agents will not be liable with respect to: (i) any death or injury or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of any prize; (ii) any dealer's refusal to honor any warranty.

23. Prizes are subject to availability and supplier's restrictions. PMPMI may, without notice, withdraw or substitute any prize with comparable value and nature.

24. PMPMI will only pay final withholding taxes on a prize amounting to more than PhP 10,000. Except as expressly provided herein, PMPMI will not be liable to the winners for any taxes, costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of ownership or use of the prizes.

25. All decisions of PMPMI and its agents are final and no objections will be entertained.

26. Employees of PMPMI, their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agencies, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and DOH-BFAD are not eligible to participate in this promotion.

27. These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government direction and regulation. The promotion will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Venue of any action arising under this promotion shall be brought solely in the proper courts of Makati City, all other available venues of suit being waived.

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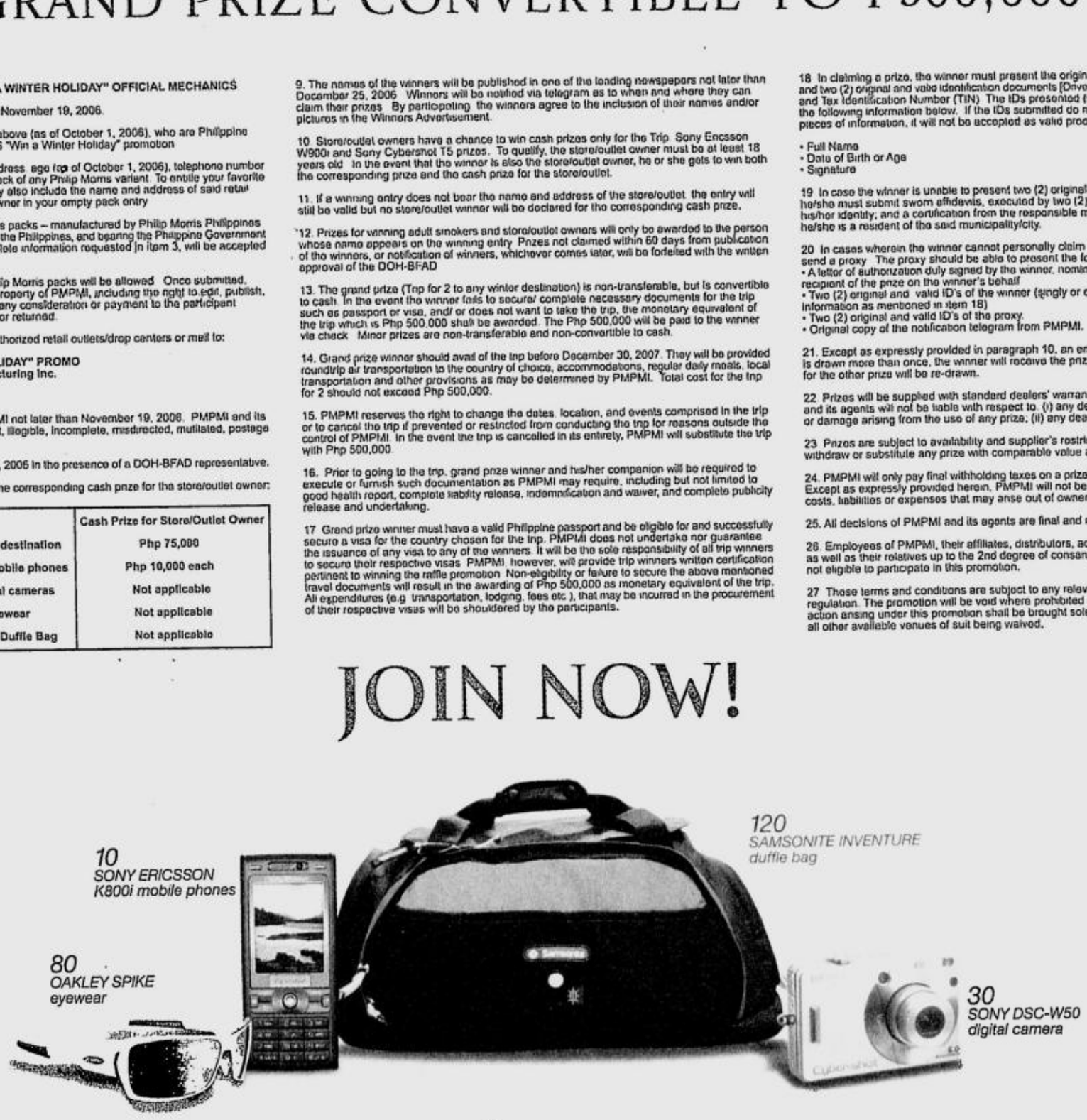

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Better to siphon oil next year, says fund exec

BACOLOD CITY—THE SIPHONing of the bunker fuel still in the sunken oil tanker off Guimaras island will have to be done in early 2007 to avoid the typhoon season, according to a representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) fund.

IOPC claims manager Capt. Patrick Joseph, who is on a visit here, said the weather was the main problem, not the funds.

"It is typhoon season in the south of Guimaras right now. And for this operation, we need about a 20-to-30-day window of calm seas. The kind of hardware that is being deployed to do this operation cannot operate when the weather is bad," Joseph said.

The IOPC is composed of three inter-governmental organizations that provide compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from spills from oil tankers.

The MT Solar 1, an oil tanker that was carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel for Petron Corp., sank off the coast of Guimaras on Aug. 11, causing an oil spill that has affected large parts of Guimaras and Iloilo.

There are concerns that the fuel still remaining in the ship could leak and cause further damage. There is also the danger that the tanks containing the bunker oil could break or explode because of the water pressure. The tanker, which sank to a depth of 603 meters, is beyond the reach of divers.

Earlier reports said the siphoning would be done in December but Joseph said he has learned that the best time to do it would be in early 2007 "when you have a clear weather window for this operation."

That could be sometime in January or February, he said, adding that the work could take about 30 days.

He said the siphoning of oil from a sunken vessel at deeper depths had been done before. He knew of it having been done in Spain at a depth of 3,800 meters.

Six international salvage companies have submitted tenders for the siphoning operation, Joseph said.

He assured the public that there was no immediate danger of the bunker fuel containers breaking up before the oil could be siphoned off as the sunken vessel was "well-imbedded in soft mud and there is no undersea current."

"The ship is stable. In the short term, there is nearly no risk unless there is a big seaquake. But in the long term, the hull could corrode," said Joseph.

Joseph is optimistic that the IOPC executive committee meeting in London on Oct. 23 will grant funding for the siphoning project.

He said IOPC executive director Mans Jacobsson had informed the executive committee that the siphoning operation was "admissible" for funding.

Joseph also met with representatives of coastal towns in Negros Occidental to discuss compensation claims.

People who suffered damage in other ways, like tourism businesses, might also make a claim, he said.

IOPC covers claims for cleanup and preventive measures, property damage, consequential losses, economic loss and environmental damage. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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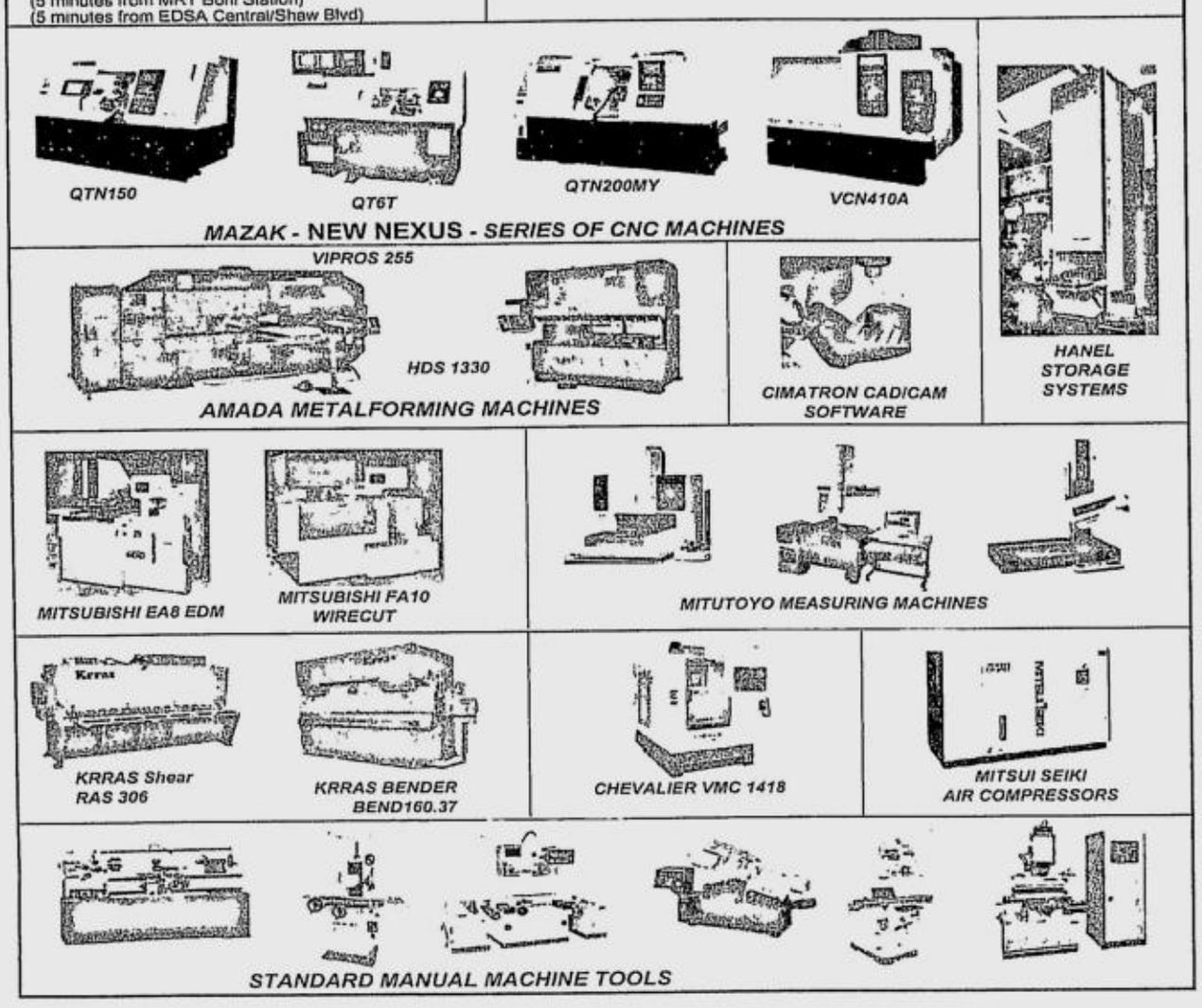

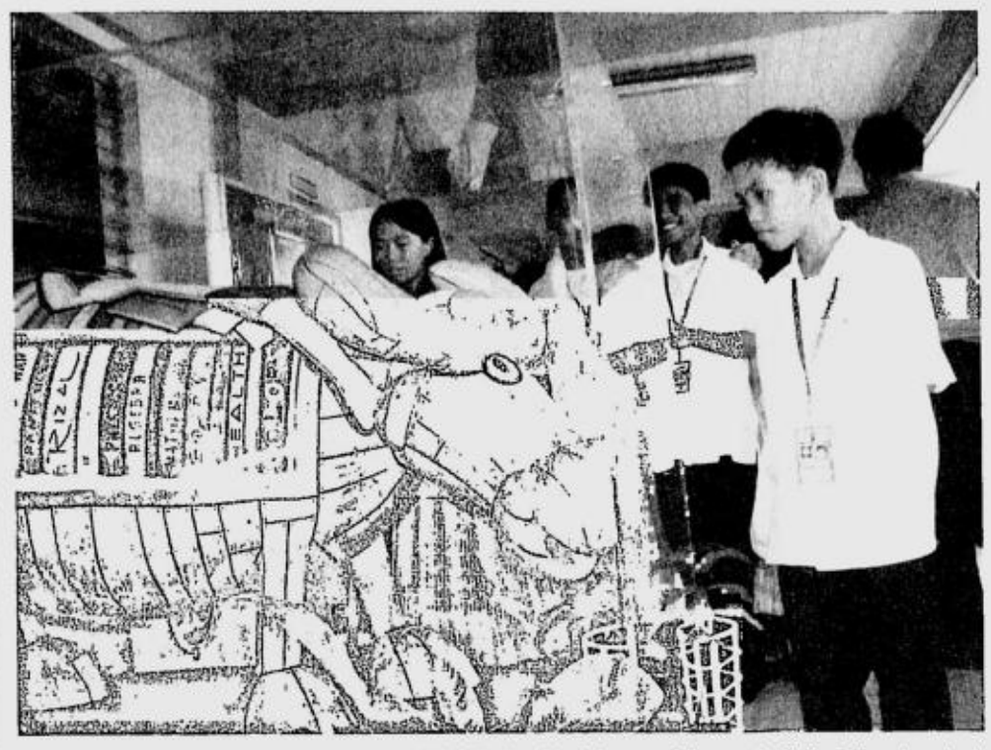

STUDENTS of the Philippine Science High School in Western Visayas in Iloilo City give their Guyito sculpture an appreciative once-over after the INQUIRER mascot was turned over to their school last Thursday. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

It was 'Guyito' in crate, W. Visayas studes learn

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE STUDENTS AND FACULty of Philippine Science High School in Western Visayas finally "solved" the mystery of the large wooden crate that arrived at their school two weeks ago when its contents were revealed during turnover rites on Thursday.

It was their Guyito sculpture—the likeness of the Philippine Daily Inquirer mascot—made by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao and painted by Jef Samonte.

The school won the Guyito, one of 20 painted on by renowned Filipino artists to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the INQUIRER, after one of its students, Leo Albert Sala, won in the National Quiz Bee last year. It now sits in a hallway of the school's economics building.

The mascot is painted on both sides with colorful bookshelves. A child lies on its back languorously reading a book.

In presenting the sculpture, INQUIRER assistant vice president for circulation Simon Yap stressed the newspaper's recognition of the vital role of reading in the development of the youth.

"Through our Youth Readership Program, we extend our helping hand to provide the youth an opportunity to develop habits that will harness their knowledge and skills to be promising citizens of our country. Developing the best of what they can be will be the best the youth can do in nation building," Yap said.

In her acceptance speech, school director and multi-awarded teacher Dr. Josette Biyo, noted the common ideals of Guyito and their school.

"To us here at PSHSWV, Guyito is a symbol of hard work and dedication. He is a symbol of passion for success and love for learning; a symbol of what one can achieve if he/she continues to pursue excellence. Guyito also stands for our commitment to serve this country and the Filipino people, said Biyo.

Biyo reaped recognition after becoming the first Asian teacher to win the Intel Excellence in Teaching Award in the United States. A minor planet was named after her for winning the award.

Dawn Satumbaga, 15, a senior student said the Guyito sculpture aptly represented the school because "it's comical, like most high school students." Its eyeglasses also represent intellect, she said.

After the turnover ceremony, 50 selected students attended a journalism seminar conducted by INQUIRER associate editor Abelardo Ulanday and vice president for information technology and pre-press Gary Libby.

Students asked questions on the publishing process, from how news is gathered daily by reporters up to the delivery of the newspaper to its readers.

They also wanted to know more about Guyito.

"Guyito" or small carabao, represents what the INQUIRER hopes to develop among its readers, said INQUIRER corporate relations head Connie Kalagayan. "It is an opinionated and intelligent carabao."

Hoax victimizes 'Wowowee' fans in calamity-stricken Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY—CORAZON ESQUIVIAZ, 65, woke up at 2 a.m., put on her best dress, and together with some neighbors, paid out money intended for the repair of her typhoon-damaged house to travel 26 kilometer on a rented tricycle, hoping to get a crack at a P1-million jackpot prize offered by ABS-CBN's popular game show *Wowowee*.

But when they arrived at the supposed venue, the Balogo Sports Complex here, which was converted by the city government into a temporary shelter for typhoon evacuees, not a single crew member of the popular game show was in sight.

All they saw were hundreds of other people, most of them victims of Typhoon "Milenyo" like them desperate for a chance at winning some cash.

Sorsogon was one of the provinces hardest hit by powerful Milenyo that slammed the country on Sept. 28. It was the worst calamity to hit southern Luzon and Metro Manila in more than a decade.

People said they received text messages about the supposed *Wowowee* live game show, dubbed "Bigat-10." The mobile messages spread like wildfire through this desperate province.

Supt. Formoso Argarin, city police chief, whose office is right at the entrance of the sports complex, said the participant-hopefuls came from various municipalities of the province, even from far-flung barangays.

Jessica Orquiana, a mother of six from Prieto Diaz, said she hitched a ride on a delivery van to reach the sports complex. Her house was one of many that had been blown down by the typhoon.

Melchor Felices, a fisherman from Gubat town, said he decided to take the day off from fishing, hoping to win some money to replace the banca he lost to the typhoon.

It turned out to be a hoax, a bad joke.

It was hard to trace how it all began or spread.

Msgr. Francisco Monje, the city's parish priest, expressed sadness over what happened, saying it was an indication of the people's miserable situation.

Monje said the children were the most affected by the calamity.

The parish priest, who chairs the Kasanggayahan festival committee, said they decided to cancel the celebration and instead use the fund to help the children, especially those who lost their school supplies and uniforms.

Interviewed by broadcaster Jun Galias of dzRS, Harold Nueva, executive producer of Wowowee, said there was no schedule for Sorsogon yet.

Nueva clarified that show host Willie Revillame never announced any show scheduled for Sorsogon.

Galias said his program was deluged with calls and text messages inquiring about the Sorsogon show.

The Wowowee producers are still smarting from the stampede in Pasig City early this year that killed over 70 people—all of them desperate to win game show prizes. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Luisita lawyers hit 'surveillance'

By Jerome Aning

LAWYERS BELONGing to the Pro-Labor Legal Assistance Center handling the case of the striking farm workers at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac yesterday scored the "persistent military surveillance and harassment" purportedly being conducted on them by elements of the military.

Last Thursday, the lawyers said a group of men who were "obviously intelligence agents" were seen loitering near the Pro-Labor office in Quezon City from noon until the law office closed at 5:30 p.m.

"We are distracted by the up-front surveillance activities against our law office. We cannot go about our day-to-day work as the military violates our right to privacy. We are planning to press charges against the in telligence agents and their superiors who ordered the surveillance," said lawyer Remigio Saladero of Pro-Labor.

Saladero and a colleague, Nenita Mahinay, are among the lawyers handling the case of the striking farm workers at the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita. At the heart of the issue is the distribution of land to the farmers who had decried the earlier issuance of stocks to them in lieu of the agrarian reform program.

The firm is also handling the case of Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran who continues to be detained at the Philippine Heart Center on a 20-year-old rebellion charge.

Pro-Labor, an affiliate of the militant workers group Kilusang Mayo Uno, is handling more than 700 labor cases pending in various courts involving such big companies as Nestlé Philippines, SM Inc. and San Miguel Corp.

Since August, staff members and employees of the law firm said they had been noticing "dubious-looking" men, some on motorcycles, hanging out outside their office.

On Oct. 5, employees of the office had a soldier arrested by the police for following them all the way to the Food Terminal Inc. complex in Taguig City.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 15, 2006
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

Prayer for wisdom

I prayed and understanding was given to me; I asked earnestly and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.

I preferred her to scepters and thrones and I considered wealth as nothing compared with her.

I preferred her to any jewel of inestimable value, since gold beside her is nothing but a few grains of sand, and silver but mud. I loved her more than wealth and beauty and even preferred her to light, because her radiance never dies.

She brought with her all other good things, untold riches in her hands.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

Effect of God's word

The word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and judges the intentions and thoughts of the heart. All creation is transparent to Him; everything is uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we render account.

Gospel: Mark 10:17-30 (or 10:17-27)

Highest ideal

Just as Jesus was setting out on his journey again, a man ran up, knelt before him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not cheat, honor your father and mother." The man replied, "I have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him and he said, "For you, one thing is lacking. Go, sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me." On hearing these words, his face fell and he went away sorrowful for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were shocked at these words, but Jesus insisted, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

They were more astonished than ever and wondered, "Who, then, can be saved?" Jesus looked steadily at them and said, "For humans it is impossible, but not for God; all things are possible with God."

Peter spoke up and said, "We have given up everything to follow you." Jesus answered, "Truly, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters, or father or mother, or children, or lands for my sake and for the Gospel, who will not receive his reward. I say to you: even in the midst of persecution he will receive a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and lands in the present time and in the world to come eternal life."

Commentary

Have we prayed for wisdom and understanding, wanting it more than anything else? Do we live in the radiance that is Wisdom (Spirit of Jesus)? Wisdom is the Word of God—sharper than any two-edged sword, living and effective, severing soul/spirit, joints/marrow, judging intentions/thoughts of the heart. Wisdom is the heart and eye of God that judges us always. Wisdom looks at us with love and says: "There is one more thing you must do." Must do—this is not an option. We must go, sell what we have, share it with the poor, then come back and follow Jesus the poor, crucified one. We whine like Peter that we've left everything and what are we going to get? We will be given in return a hundredfold in everything that is essential: the kin of Jesus, community, all that we need shared, intimacy and friendship, even persecution if we are faithful, and life everlasting, now and forever. This is wisdom. This is the Word. How wise are we?

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2 nursing board members recommended for dismissal

By Alcuin Papa

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION Commission has recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the dismissal of two members of the Board of Nursing (BON) who had purportedly leaked test questions in the June nursing board examination.

The PRC found Virginia Madeja and Anesia Dionisio guilty of "neglect of duty" after gathering the testimonies of witnesses in the cheating, Commissioner Renato Valdecantos told the INQUIRER.

"Only the President can officially dismiss them based on our recommendation. Once they are dismissed, they are automatically disqualified from holding any government office," Valdecantos said yesterday, adding that the PRC had also revoked the two women's nursing licenses.

It was Madeja and Dionisio who wrote the questions for Test III (medical and surgical nursing) and Test V (psychiatric nursing), respectively, in the controversial exam.

Valdecantos had earlier headed a fact-finding committee assigned to investigate the leak.

'No retake' position

The committee subsequently recommended the filing of administrative charges against Madeja and Dionisio

Valdecantos expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Court of Appeals ordering the PRC to administer the oath to all board passers except those required to retake Tests III and V.

"We are happy that our position of 'no retake' has been sustained by the court. We are happy that those who had nothing to do with the leakage will be allowed to take their oath," he said.

Valdecantos said the PRC would immediately carry out the court's order. He also expressed the hope that the decision would "be accepted by all those concerned so this issue can be formally closed."

Nurses' group hails order of appeals court

From page A1

elevate this to the Supreme Court. We want to move on and put a closure to [this controversy]."

Aquino, however, expressed sadness for those who would have to retake portions of the 5-part exam.

He said that as of yesterday, the ANN's "preliminary consensus" was not to appeal for the 1,687 (not 1,186, as earlier reported) whom the appellate court had ruled should retake Tests III and V.

He pointed out that an appeal could drag the matter.

"We are still consulting some people, but some of [the 1,687] might decide to have the retake in December so they can also move on," he said.

Happiness was also what Chulou Penales, 10th placer in the board exam and president of the anti-retake group Tanan, expressed in Cebu City.

"For us, this is the most justifiable decision, to spare the innocents from the retake," Penales said.

Prayer vigil

Aquino called on the Professional Regulation Commission not to push through with its decision to have the names of the 1,687 published in newspapers. He said the list should just be posted in the PRC premises.

He also said ANN members would hold a thanksgiving Mass and a prayer vigil "so that this [issue] will no longer go to the Supreme Court."

Aquino's lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said in a statement:

"The Court of Appeals has relied on the principle that no one is punished unless proven to be guilty. The presumption of innocence is a cherished one in the Bill of Rights. I commend the court as he who is merely just, is severe, and this is a situation clearly calling for compassion, sympathy and understanding.

"All sides to the controversy have valid arguments but the above tenets or concerns are the makeweight for the balance of hardships to be tilted in favor of the passers and their loved ones who have suffered enough for no fault of their own.

"It is time to move on as fanning the controversy further is now counterproductive."

Possible appeal

But Commission on Filipinos Overseas Chair Dante Ang, one of the petitioners in the appellate court seeking a retake for all examinees, said he was consulting his lawyers regarding a possible appeal.

"I respect the [court's] decision. However, I find the need for some questions to be clarified. But despite my reservations, I hope the decision would bring closure to this issue and ... restore the integrity of the [professional licensure] system," he said in another phone interview.

Ang, chair of the presidential task force lobbying to make the Philippines a testing site for the US National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEX), had questioned the PRC decision to recompute the examinees' grades after the leak of test questions was exposed.

Ang had said the PRC decision perpetuated mediocrity. He said the PRC gave a 2-percent bonus, allowing those who originally got a grade of, say, 73, to pass with a grade of 75.

Dwelling on the matter yesterday, Ang said the solution employed by the PRC was "questionable and incredible." Thus, he said, "the retake cannot be limited to one area."

The court came up with the figures—1,687 who needed to retake and 1,200 who should be included among those who passed—after invalidating the PRC recomputation that increased the passing percentage from 41.24 percent to 42.42 percent of the more than 40,000 who took the exam.

It left the determination of the 1,687 to Malacanang.

Not that easy

But Ang said this solution did not seem to adequately address the problem.

"If it were that easy [to determine those who benefited from the leakage], the PRC could have identified them in the beginning so that their grades could have been discarded," he said.

Ang said he had reservations about the court's ruling on a limited retake.

He said whistle-blower Dennis Bautista had been telling investigators that the leak was not confined to Baguio City and Manila because when Bautista et al. were undertaking their review, the review proceedings in certain review centers were being telecast live in the cities of Cebu and Davao.

Bautista was among the witnesses whose testimonies were used by the National Bureau of Investigation.

"My position is that the PRC should recompute the grades for the second time so that it will reflect the real results of the exam," said Ang, who is part of the Cabinet group that deliberated on the cheating scandal.

But he said Malacañang had no choice but to "obey the decision of the court."

2nd petition

In Baguio City, 27 board flunkers are banking on the appellate court's ruling on a second petition lodged before it last month to say with certainty whether they would qualify for the oath and the license to practice.

The court's Oct. 13 decision, which said certain passers should retake Tests III and V, also voided the test results.

It was a response to a petition filed by the University of Sto. Tomas to stop the PRC from processing the licenses of the board passers.

A second petition was filed on Sept. 20 by the 27 flunkers who had taken the exam in Baguio. That petition asked the court to void the test results and to sanction the PRC for purportedly attempting a cover-up.

On Friday, the court voided Resolution 31, which the PRC had issued to correct the impact of the leak.

The resolution contained the formula used to compute the test scores of all the examinees. The computation excluded Tests III and V.

Cheryl Daytec-Yangot, lawyer of the 27 Baguio petitioners, said some of her clients may have passed the exam as a result of the voiding of the resolution, and may now take their oath as nurses.

"If cheating is not nationwide, then the PRC must now recompute the test scores it released prematurely because there are examinees who actually passed now that the court says Test V is not excluded," she said.

'Twice prejudiced'

Yangot said her clients were hoping that the court would clarify its ruling by hearing the second petition.

"In spite of such a finding that there was no widespread leakage, [the Board of Nursing] manipulated the scores for Test V, arbitrarily assigning points to it from the other subject areas. In effect, petitioning examinees and the classes they represent were twice prejudiced by their low scores in the other tests," the petition said.

"Had the respondents not manipulated their scores adopting the formula, their averages would have been higher considering that Test V was the easiest to hurdle among all the tests. There is a possibility that the failing petitioners would have passed the examination."

The Baguio nursing school deans and professors who had first complained about the cheating endorsed the second petition.

Fund-raising

Tanan's Penales said she and her colleagues had yet to see how many of the 1,723 board passers in Cebu would be affected by the nullification of the PRC recomputation.

Penales said Tanan might help generate funds for and provide whatever support to those who would have to retake the exam.

Cebu is among the Visayan provinces that had asked the government to exempt the Visayas and Mindanao from the proposed retake.

In Maasin City, Leyte, parents of the board passers said they were pleased by the court ruling.

But Aurora Salazar said she would rather have her daughter review for the US NCLEX for nurses, which does not require a Philippine license.

Joy Arnaiz, mother of another board passer, echoed this sentiment.

"My daughter, who is in Cebu reviewing for the NCLEX, called me this morning to tell me how happy she was when she learned about the ruling," Arnaiz said.

At least 10 examinees from Maasin passed the controversial exam. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jhunnex Napallacan and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

GONZALEZ: Identify and go after cheats.

ERMITA: Ruling jibes with GMA's sentiments.

BRION: No closure if case goes to the Supreme Court.

Palace: It's all up to court

From page A1

coaching" sessions at the three review centers blamed for the leak may immediately take their oath as professional nurses.

But it ordered a retake of Tests III and V for 1,687 examinees whose names were added to the list of some 17,000 passers following the PRC's recomputation of the test scores.

The court also ordered that the 1,186 examinees whose names were removed from the list of passers following the recomputation be returned to the list.

It also said that even if they had taken their oath and been issued licenses to practice, those found guilty of benefiting from the leak would have their licenses revoked.

Brion said he was to have submitted his plan of action to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday morning following the release of the National Bureau of Investigation's findings on Wednesday, but that he shelved the move after the Court of Appeals issued its decision on Friday ordering a partial retake for those who had benefited from the leak.

He said Ms Arroyo would no longer be compelled to decide who among the examinees should take the exam again.

"The President had ordered me to make a decision on the matter but with the CA ruling, the matter is now entirely for the courts to decide and the PRC (Professional Regulation Commission) to implement," said Brion, a former appellate justice.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he had ordered the NBI to start identifying the examinees who had benefited from the leak.

In places where it would be hard to prove how many examinees benefited, such as Baguio City, each one may be subjected to a retake of Tests III and V, he said.

Gonzalez also said Ms Arroyo was not likely to order a national retake in deference to the court decision.

"She has always been observing court decisions even if it is a bitter pill for her to take," he said in a phone interview.

Final word

Brion said there was no need for Malacañang to reconcile the NBI findings with the court ruling.

The NBI findings also limited the cheating to Manila and Baguio and showed that the cheating covered only Tests III and V.

"The NBI is just a police investigating body; what the courts will decide will still be the final word," he said.

But he said the question of whether the issue would be resolved swiftly or be allowed to drag on further would depend entirely on how the parties involved would react to the court's decision: "If all the parties involved just agree to the CA decision and do not file an appeal, we can set this issue aside and move on." *(Related story on Page A1.)*

Earlier in the day over Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Para sa Iyo, Bayan," Brion said he had been informed that those unhappy with the decision would file a motion for reconsideration before the appellate court and, eventually, a petition for review by certiorari before the Supreme Court.

Brion said that while the court decision allowed the oath-taking of most of the board passers, such a move might still be stalled in the event of a motion for reconsideration.

"It is beyond the executive department because there is already an order from the court. Only the parties involved—in this case, those aggrieved by the decision—can move," he said.

No closure

Brion said that if the case reached the Supreme Court, the latter may either issue a temporary restraining order to stop the oath-taking or allow it to proceed while deliberating on the petition.

But those who took the oath may still be stripped of their licenses if the high court reversed the lower court's ruling, he pointed out.

According to Brion, the issue was still quite contentious and nowhere near closure: "*May kaguluhan. Magulo. Magulo pa rin, kaya nga sabi ko, wala pang* closure *ito.* Wherever we are right now, we have to move on."

He said the first step to addressing the problem would be the immediate reconstitution of the Board of Nursing (BON), considering the seven vacancies there, and another licensure examination scheduled on Dec. 2 and 3. *(Story on Page A7.)*

He also said there was a need to monitor the prosecution of those to be charged before the Ombudsman, particularly the officers of R.A. Gapuz Review Center, Inress Review Center and Pentagon Review Specialist Inc., as well as the BON members.

Brion said he had submitted a list of possible replacements to the BON.

Malacañang's search committee will draw up a short list from which the President will make her choices.

Brion reiterated that the cheating scandal had tainted the image of Filipino nurses here and abroad.

He said the president of the Philippine Nurses Association in the United Kingdom had informed him that other countries that also send nurses there—like India—were capitalizing on the Philippine scandal.

Difficult to pinpoint

Also over "Para sa Iyo, Bayan," NBI Director Nestor Mantaring and Commission on Filipinos Overseas Chair Dante Ang admitted that it would be difficult to pinpoint who among the examinees had actually benefited from the leak.

Mantaring cited the case of an examinee who admitted having benefited from the leaked questions for Tests III and V but still failed the 5-part exam.

He said this was probably because the examinee got low marks in the other tests.

To implement the court decision, Gonzalez said he had ordered the NBI to subpoena the list of examinees who undertook review sessions at Gapuz, Inress and Pentagon, those who attended the final coaching sessions at those review centers, and those in Baguio who had received photocopied documents containing the leaked questions and answers.

"That is what should be done now. We should already implement the CA decision," he said, adding:

"Once we identify these examinees—whether they passed or failed the exam—they should retake Tests III and V. That is the order of the CA.

"If they reviewed there, they should retake because the presumption is they cheated."

Overtaken by events

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang action on the cheating scandal had been "overtaken by events."

He said the Palace was "glad" about the appellate court's decision, specifically on allowing the majority of the board passers to proceed with their oath-taking and ordering a partial retake.

"The ruling jibes with the President's mandate to punish the guilty but spare the innocent. We all know that the President is sensitive to the concerns of the parents of these nursing examinees," he said.

Brion's report was to have been the basis of the administrative order on the retake that Malacañang had planned to issue on Monday.

He was earlier assigned by the President to decide on the controversy, the Department of Labor and Employment having been directed by her to take direct supervision of the PRC.

Brion had openly advocated a retake for all examinees nationwide of the parts of the exam in which questions and answers had been leaked. His position had been in direct contrast with that of PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero.

Brion had also criticized Malacañang for deciding to wait for the court decision, and said the President had sufficient powers to resolve the controversy.

BON resignations

Ermita said in an interview over dzRH radio that Malacañang would not accept the resignation of any BON member until investigators had proven their culpability.

"Some board members have submitted their resignation out of delicadeza, but we have not accepted any because we have not yet determined whether they are liable for any administrative liability. If we allow them to resign, any administrative action we might take against them would be useless," he said.

Ermita said that should the courts proceed with the retake of the board exam, the government has to have the replacements in place at the BON to administer the retake.

The BON members are Eufemia F. Octaviano (chair), Remedios L. Fernandez, Letty G. Kuan, Estelita T. Galutira, Virginia D. Madeja and Anesia D. Dionisio.

The PRC has recommended Madeja and Dionisio for dismissal on grounds of their purported involvement in the leak of test questions.

With a report from Jerome Aning

Sex, mice and videotape ...

From page A1

room at Disneyland Resort Paris, has received wide attention on the Internet.

The Walt Disney Co. on Thursday said it took "appropriate action" against the employees at its Paris theme park who were caught simulating sex while dressed as Disney characters.

Disney would not say whether it had dismissed any of the costumed employees featured in the grainy video, which appears to have been shot with a hidden camera.

"The behavior shown on the video is unacceptable and inexcusable," Disney said in a statement. "The video was taken in the backstage area not accessible to guests. Appropriate action has been taken to deal with the cast members involved."

The video shows Minnie Mouse struggling to free herself as she is grabbed from behind by Goofy and then a giant snowman.

One question: Where was Mickey?

Reuters

Over 600 journalists decry libel law

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS of the Philippines (NUJP) has collected over 600 signatures from journalists nationwide calling for the decriminalization of libel and an end to the libel—filing spree of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the NUJP, the latest signatories to the petition included Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Conrado de Quiros, ABC 5 news department head Ed Lingao, Newsbreak magazine editors Glenda Gloria and Maritess Vitug, and BusinessMirror editor Lourdes Molina-Fernandez.

"It is also not just journalists in Metro Manila who have signed but reporters, editors and broadcasters in various provinces, including a good number of Mindanao journalists like Carolyn Arguillas and Dodong Solis of Davao, and Visayas journalists such as Edralyn Benedicto of Cebu," the statement said.

Decriminalize the law

Jose Torres, NUJP chair, said the petition will be delivered to Malacañang and they will ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as urgent a bill decriminalizing libel. He said the petition will also be brought to the Senate and the House of Representatives to urge lawmakers to file the necessary bill.

Torres said NUJP plans to publish a primer on defamation to help journalists avoid libel suits and to educate the public on the current libel law's impact on press freedom.

The NUJP drafted the statement and spearheaded the signature campaign after a roundtable discussion in which participants criticized the impact of the criminal libel law on press freedom. Forty-three journalists are currently facing libel suits filed by Arroyo. This is the highest number of journalists ever sued for libel by a public figure, NUJP said.

D. Villavicencio; 79

DOLORES MORA VILLAVICENCIO OF IBA, Zambales, and Project 2, Quezon City, died at dawn yesterday at the Philippine Heart Center after a lingering illness. She was 79.

Villavicencio was a retired accountant at the National Development Corp.

She is survived by her husband Geronimo, children Gerry and Ester, Ernie and Connie, Ruby and Nilo, Oliver and Jag, Noel, and Irene; grandchildren Kim, Jaries, Leon, Dan, Neil, Paolo, Rafael, Olin, Vincent, Kerri and Robin.

Her remains lie at Chapel L of Funeraria Paz (Main) on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Thursday at Holy Cross Memorial Park in Quezon City after the 8 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

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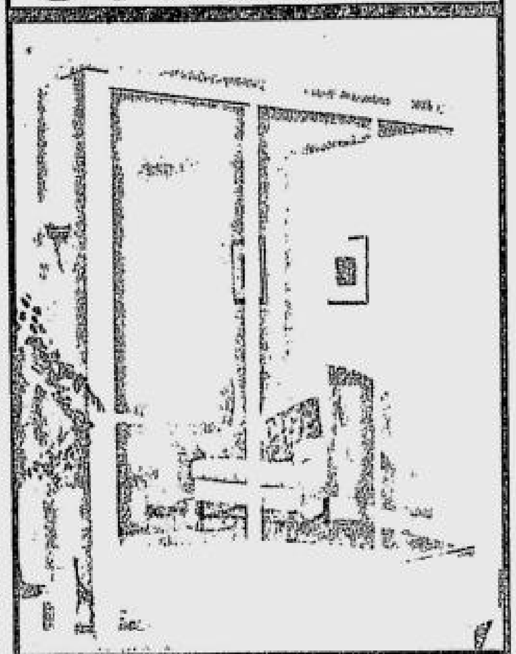

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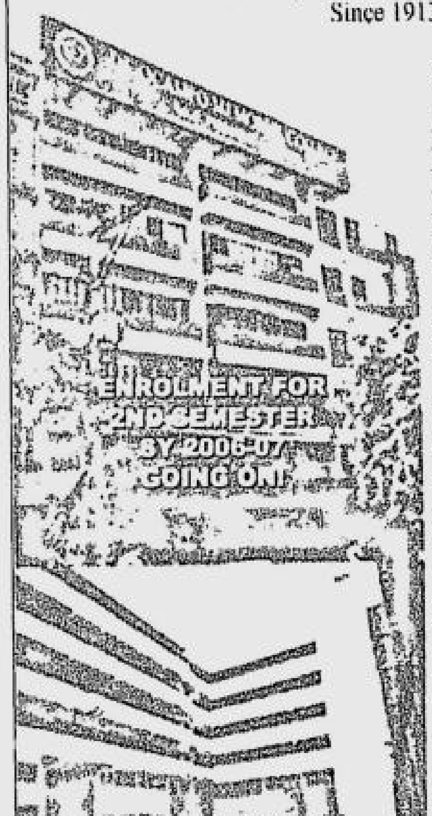

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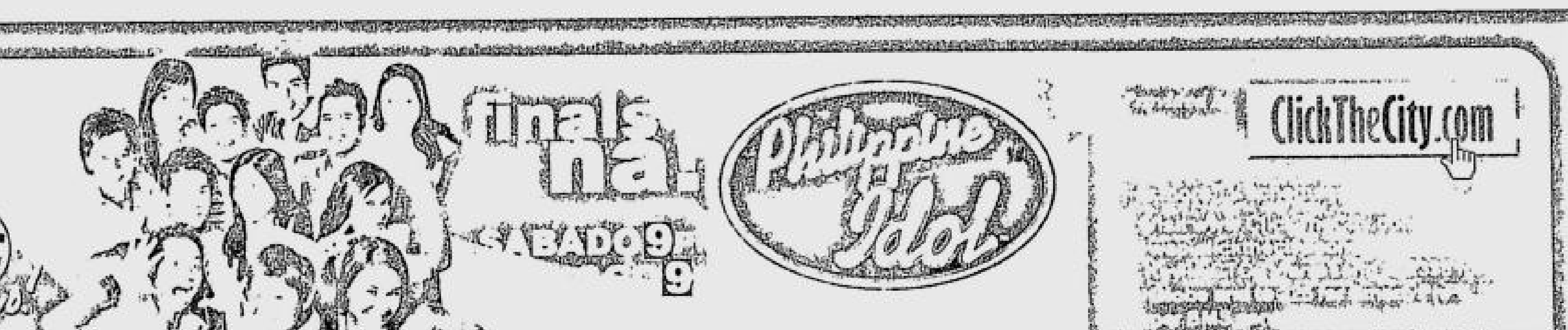

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Philippine Idol	Shall We Dance		ABC Theater		
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song, Ang Soundtrack Ng Loveline Mo	Lovespell		The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		Sharon		Pinoy Dream Academy	Sunday's Best			
AXN		What's The Worst That Could Happen				E Buzz	Samsung Sports World	AXN Shakedown		The Amazing Race (Season X)		World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
bTV					B-Ballography: C. Hawkins	NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Jam	NBA Greatest Game				NBA Greatest Game				NBA Special: Greatest Moment		NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Jam
Cartoon Network	Camp Lazlo	Baby Looney Tunes	Tom & Jerry Tales	The Woody Woodpecker Show				Pokemon/The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Pokemon		Courage The Cowardly Dog/ The Simpsons: Tree House Of Horror/Courage The Cowardly Dog	Scooby-Doo & The Legend Of The Vampire		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Ben 10	Teen Titans	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One				Nasaan Ka Man				Forever My Love				Ako Legal Wife				New Police Story			
Cinemax			Witch Hunt			Implicated (5:15PM)				Housesitter (6:55PM)			The Making Of Battlestar Galactica 2	Battlestar Galactica Mission 15			Beyond Borders (10:35PM)		
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Living Golf/Living Golf Main Sail/Art Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Bus Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenge	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Living Golf/ Main Sail/Art of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		I, Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		L.O. Criminal Intent + Traffic		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law Firm		Treasure Hunters		L.O. Criminal Intent + Traffic		Oz		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr. 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Video	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery/ Kim Possible So The Drama	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Women's Pro Billiards '06		LPGA Golf Longs Drug Challenge 3rd Rd				MLB Caltex Series Game4						NFL Football: Ravens @ Broncos					
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Oh Special	American Dreams		One Tree Hill		America's Next Top Model		Friends	Simple Life 4	Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck		Rated Oh Special	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Styling With Celebrities		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octava Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		The Line Up		The Journal Editorial Report	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Pinoy Meets World		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
HBO	Entourage 22: The Abyss	Bewitched			Singles (4:45PM)				Scooby Doo, The Movie (6:20 PM)			Beetlejuice			XXX: The Next Level			Warm Springs (11:10PM)	
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Rockman Exe	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Scrapped Princess	Knights Remune NG	Offside	Starship Operators	G3	Vottos V Evolution	Yu-Gi-Oh Overload				Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Ang Bayan Hanap Mo?.		EZ Shop	Mommy Academy	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		EBC Earth Files		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE Smackdown				South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr. Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY: Crafts	The Great Adventure	Your Private Island	Eng Lyeng Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special						Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Hale	Diary Of Sean Paul	MTV News	MTV Hits	Homecoming	Score	Boling Points	Pimp My Ride	Homewrecker	Punk'd	Wildboyz	From Wack to Mack	From Wack to Mack	From Wack to Mack	From Wack to Mack	MTV Hits		MTV Screen	Sessions Raw
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Megastructures		Explorations Powered By Duracell	From The Heart	Milestones		Ultimate Disaster		Explorations Powered By Duracell	From The Heart	Milestones		Best Of The Week		Nat Geo Investigates			
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Gising)						Tinig Ng Bayan Continues In Action				Unlimited Diving	TM Taco Masters Challenge		The Sports List	Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Special Events From Malacañang	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	Ang Mga Nangyari Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nangyari Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Avatar: The Legend Of Aang/ Kappa Mikey		The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Open Water				[illegible]				Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka				Lagi Kitang Mamahalin				Uhaw Sa Init Ng Pagmamahal
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angel			Bongga Ka Star	Ang Pinaka		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Moby Dick	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Sure Hits	World Poker Tour		WWE Experience		WWE Smackdown		Ultimate Fighter		Sunday's Big Event				Global Window	The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Akayon			
Solar Sports				Motoring Today		Undisputed		World Game		Celebrity Poker				Boxing: Marquez Vs Marquez vs Jandrang					
Star Movies		Almost Famous (2:50PM)				Mighty Joe Young				The Grudge (6:55PM)				Open Water			Ginger Snaps 2: Unleashed		
Star World		The Office	Two And A Half Men	Kevin Hill		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	NCIS		Desperate Housewives		Oprah Prime Time		Robbie Williams				Hollywood Shootout	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Exposed		Y-Speak		Gag Itol	US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Daniel Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme		MYXilog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MGA KWENTONG OFW

"Kahit malayo si Rod, damang-dama namin ang pagiging padre de pamilya niya."

Lovelyn and Roderick Salariosa

Ten years nang kasal si Lovelyn at si Roderick Salariosa, pero sa loob ng 10 years na yon, 8 years na silang hiwalay dahil kinailangang magtrabaho ni Rod sa Middle East bilang AutoCAD operator. Six years siya sa Riyadh at ngayon halos 2 years na sa Dubai. Nung first time na umalis ni Rod, buntis si Lovelyn sa panganay nilang anak.

"Mahirap na masarap maging OFW family! Minsan malungkot ka kasi siyempre mamimiss mo siya pero pag nakikita ko naman na maayos naming napapalaki ang mga bata at nakakapag-aral sila sa magandang school, sulit na rin!" Mula sa kita ng kanyang asawa, nagtayo siya ng beauty parlor and SmartLoad business. Both businesses are doing well. "Buti na nga lang at may SMART. Nababawasan ang kaba at lungkot ko 'pag naririnig ko boses niya! Minsan nga 4 beses pa kami magtawagan sa loob ng 1 linggo! Di naman nauubusan ng pagkukwentuhan eh."

Lovelyn and the kids, John Erick (9 years old) and James Erickson (5 years old), are also heavy users of SMART International Text. "Yung mga bata hinahayaan kong mag-text nang madalas sa Daddy nila para naman di nila maramdaman na malayo si Rod." The kids keep their father updated on schoolwork, minsan pa nga humihingi sila ng tulong sa assignments kay Daddy kung nasa parlor pa si Mommy.

"Simple lang naman ang pangarap namin—ang makapagtapos ang mga bata at magkaroon ng sariling bahay!"

"Kahit malayo si Rod, damang-dama namin ang pagiging padre de pamilya niya." She recalls the time when the boys got sick and had to be hospitalized. Rod virtually stayed with her through the ordeal. "Feeling ko no'n magkasama kaming nagbabantay, magdamag siyang text nang text. Pinalakas niya loob ko." The caring and nurturing go both ways. Nung si Rod naman ang nagkasakit, Lovelyn constantly called him to remind him to take his temperature and medicines. Talaga namang the Salariosas are well-bonded. "Simple lang naman ang pangarap namin—ang makapagtapos ang mga bata at magkaroon ng sariling bahay! Pag stable na ang mga negosyo namin, pwede nang umuwi si Rod ko. Pero for now, kailangan namin'ng magsipag at magtiis pa nang konti."

MULA SA NATIONWIDEST N
MILYUN-MILYONG OFW F

SMART

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ETWORK NA NAGLALAPIT SA
AMILIES SA BUONG MUNDO

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"Naku, siguro we spend about ₱500 per week sa International Text at IDD, kasi nga aside from mga balita sa negosyo eh marami kaming pinagkukwentuhan!"

Michelle, Menchie and Myra Jimenez

Matagal nang close ang magkapatid na si Michelle at Menchie Jimenez sa kanilang pinsan na si Myra. Now that they're adults living in 3 different parts of the world, the ties that bind are still intact. In fact, si Michelle ang nag-ma-manage ng mini-grocery ng pinsan niyang si Myra na nagtatrabaho bilang banker sa London. Si Menchie naman, has been based in Kuwait for the past 2 years, working as a dental assistant. It is amazing how the 3 have kept closely connected through the distance and the years.

Si Michelle ay isang proud na single mom to 7 year old Isis, whom she says enjoys the full love and support of Tita Myra and Tita Menchie. Hindi lalampas ang isang linggo na hindi tumatawag si Myra at nagtatanong tungkol sa kanyang paboritong pamangkin. With constant IDD and International Text, Myra gets up to date news on Isis' progress in school. According to Michelle, sobrang convenient na makipag-usap kay Myra dahil meron siyang Smart International Roaming. Constant ang text ni Michelle kay Myra to update her on the goings on of their grocery. "I am so proud of this business, kasi ang laki-laki na nito ngayon! Alam ko naman na pinaghirapan niyang itayo ito!" She relies on the strength of SMART International Text and SmartLoad. "Naku, siguro we spend about P500 per week sa International Text at IDD, kasi nga aside from mga balita sa negosyo eh marami kaming pinagkukwentuhan! Nung nag-class president nga si Isis, tuwang-tuwa si Ate Myra!" It is so easy to keep connected as Michelle simply sends Myra's Smart Buddy SIM a regular load via SmartLoad. "Malaking tulong para sa'min na naka-roaming si Ate Myra. Ang dali maka-connect, para ngang nandito lang sya sa Manila!" Like Myra, Menchie has kept her SMART International Roaming Service on. "Once in a while din nagpapadala ako ng International MMS sa kanya, like when Isis celebrated her 7th birthday. Mas madalas pa nga ang kwentuhan namin ngayon!" Menchie is planning to transfer to the US soon and Michelle is so excited for her. She knows that she can stay connected through SMART Pinoy OFW Services.

Narito pa ang iba't-ibang serbisyong naglalapit sa 'yong pamilya!

Mas marami pang paraan para tuluy-tuloy ang bonding ng OFW Families mula sa SMART at PLDT Global. May SMART Pinoy MVNO SIM, serving more than 80,000 Pinoys in Hong Kong and Singapore with the lowest calling and texting rates to the Philippines. You can also avail of our Prepaid Phonecards, para sa premium voice quality at pinakamurang IDD rates. At 'pag ika'y nasa U.K., gumamit ng GETSMART! It allows you to call and text your loved ones in the Philippines from any landline or mobile phone. Nagbibigay din ng P1 International Text to Hong Kong and the U.S. through International Budget Text. Ilan lang yan sa mga serbisyong para sa lahat ng OFW Families handog ng SMART.

'AG-UNLAD NG PAMILYANG PILIPINO.

t-isa upang maabot ang mga pangarap at gumanda ang kinabukasan.
y ng pamilya, anuman ang distansya.
tuloy sa pag-unlad ng buhay.

SMART PINOY
OFW SERVICES
Pamilya'y pinagtitibay, sa pagganda ng buhay.

PAMILYA SMART TAYO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The wrong treatment

EDITORIAL

WHEN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE reached by TV and radio news crews for their reaction to the Court of Appeals' Friday the 13th decision, which ordered a selective retake of the June nursing board examinations, an almost palpable sense of relief could be heard on the airwaves.

In various ways, for various reasons, officials expressed their eagerness to follow the court order. Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, who had been tasked by Malacañang with the unenviable responsibility of deciding on the official response to the controversy, said he would no longer issue a separate decision. Professional Regulation Commission chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero, who had called Brion and presidential adviser Dante Ang "intruders" and hinted that she would not follow any Palace decision to order a complete retake, welcomed the decision without indulging in the sense of vindication she must have felt. (She did say she wanted to resume the oath-taking for the new nurses on an earlier day.)

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor issued a motherhood statement that could also be read as yet another sign of official weariness. The ruling "strengthened and validated the Palace position that the decision will be fair to all concerned," he said. Translation: Malacañang, which earlier ordered a complete retake without waiting for the court to resolve the case, would not fight the decision.

The CA decision is not—in Ramos-speak—a "win-win" solution. But the administration will paint it in precisely those colors, for the most practical of reasons. Too much damage has been inflicted on the nursing profession and the country's reputation, and it is time, as various government officials have started to say, to "move on."

The decision effectively narrows the scope of the scandal: to Metro Manila and Baguio, and to three review centers. To be exact: to those examinees who attended the "final coaching" sessions of the three review centers.

"The tests that were conducted outside of Manila and Baguio were observed by both the respondents and the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation] to have been clean. The successful examinees thereat are therefore entitled to an immediate oath-taking and license," the ruling written by Associate Justice Vicente S. E. Veloso read. Additionally, "the Manila and Baguio examinees who did not review at Gapuz, Inress and Pentagon review centers and those who reviewed thereat but did not attend their final coaching" could also take their oath and receive their license immediately.

Then the hard part: "For pertinently, as hereafter ordered, only the examinees who may later be identified by respondents and/or the NBI to have attended the final coaching at Gapuz, Inress and Pentagon review centers are to be penalized with a retaking of Tests III and V."

As these excerpts already show, more work needs to be done to identify precisely who cheated or benefited from the leaks. The CA's rejection of the recomputation employed to compensate for the tainted tests will also likely add more names to the list of board passers. And yet the reaction of various officials, even those who had publicly taken contrary positions about how the scandal should be resolved, has been an almost uniform sense of relief. (Some even expressed the hope that no motion for reconsideration would be filed, so that the court order could take effect sooner.) That must be because they are all weary of the controversy, and simply want to "move on."

And yet the scandal was wearying partly because the administration's inept and irresolute handling made it so. The stakes were as high as they could go, with serious consequences for both critical institutions (the health care system, the labor export market) and a mass of dedicated, highly educated individuals (some 17,000 new nurses). And yet the administration acted in a baffling way: at first it took its time, then refused to cooperate with congressional inquiries, then it ordered a retake, then took back the order, and then it watched while various officials bickered. The self-defeating behavior continues, with the NBI detecting a pattern of leaks over the years and yet, confusingly, praising the PRC.

That is what happens, when even a nursing scandal is treated by the doctors of politics. The plea to "move on" is thus merely an appeal—made familiar in other crises, in other contexts—to forget.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

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Who is to blame?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH THE CONSTITUTION NOW BEING buffeted on all sides through the initiative, the Con-Ass, the Con-Con, not necessarily for its improvement but to serve the designs of those in power to remain in office at all costs, I offer the following prayer recited by former Speaker J. B. Laurel Jr. when it was his turn to open the session of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 on July 23, 1986:

"Almighty God, even as the eagle flies at will in the infinite reaches of the skies, let our vision soar untrammeled as we seek that radiant future we hope to ensure for our people in the Constitution we are writing.

"Let it be a future where all persons are born free, relishing their rights but always with deference to the rights of others and recognizing authority as long as its highest commitment is to the strengthening and defense of liberty.

"Grant that the spirit of freedom shall always reign in our land, touching one and all like a benediction and igniting that divine spark in every human being that can make him, indeed, slightly 'lower than angels' in this imperfect world.

"Grant us courage, that we may face up to the powerful and defend those who are weak and oppressed.

"Grant us wisdom, that we may distinguish between what is right and what is just for they are not always the same.

"Grant us candor, that we may be true to ourselves and so not be false to others.

"Grant us strength when we are assailed by despair, or self-doubt, or temptation.

"And finally, Lord, grant the new Constitution grace and beauty of language, so that generations from now, when all of us here are gone, our people will still be moving reverently to the cadence of its thoughts.

"Bless us all, Eternal Spirit, and keep us free, forever and ever.

"Amen."

It was a prayer humbly sought but with a child-like faith that it would be granted by a merciful Divine Providence. But to be a truly meaningful gift from God, it had to be worshipfully accepted by us as a sign that we deserved it.

It was like a donation in law that, to be effective, has to be gratefully accepted by the donee. Without such acceptance, the donor's generosity would be a wasted act made more disappointing with its rejection.

At Edsa I, we had earlier received the gift of our resurrected freedom that earned us the admiration of the world. But soon enough, we had squandered that precious birthright by returning to the evils of the ousted regime.

The scores of cases filed against Imelda Marcos and her cohorts during their profligate rule remain unsolved and gather dust in the dockets of our courts. In one solitary case, her conviction was pronounced by the Sandiganbayan and affirmed by the Supreme Court in Division but it was unlawfully elevated to the *banc* that illegally acquitted her.

Even with Edsa II affirming the ideals of its predecessor, conditions these days are practically no different from the abuses "people power" tried to correct. Martial law, in fact if not in form, is now back to mock individual liberties and property rights.

Crime is more rampant now, and the insurgency has become stronger and more threatening. The administration conceals and condones anomalies and refuses to admit the Garci of the tell-tale tapes. Human rights have been wantonly betrayed with the murder of opponents of the present regime. Poverty stalks the land with equal impunity and deadliness as the agents of the law.

And the Constitution of 1987?

Even that precious document that Speaker Laurel envisioned as the hope and ensurer of our future has not escaped the cynicism and cupidity of our present leaders.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia are scheming to dismantle that valued charter to trample upon its ruins on their way to a new regime that will retain them in office and power with the complicity of their highly rewarded confederates.

They are blaming the ills of the nation upon the Constitution of 1987, when the fault lies with the present administration that is throwing the tub with the bathwater and killing the messenger with his unwelcome message.

They are the dirty bathwater and the dire message, not the innocent Constitution. Yet it is offered as an innocent sacrifice to abet the conspiracies of unworthy public officials whose principal purpose is self-aggrandizement through the devices of deception and cupidity and violence.

Like every human handiwork, the Constitution of 1987 is an imperfect document. It has many ambiguities and inconsistencies that need to be corrected. There are situations it has not in its wisdom predicted and has failed to avoid. Its inordinate length ill fits the fundamental law that must be concise but comprehensive. The language of many of its provisions is tortuous, intolerable, and insufferably pretentious.

But these are faults that can be corrected without destroying the Constitution itself. The fault is not in that grand arbiter but in the scoundrels who run our government like a political Cosa Nostra. This evil cannot be reformed under a parliamentary government led by the same persons who have polluted the present system.

It is not the Constitution that is to blame for our present difficulties. It is the culprits who have dishonored and are plotting to destroy it that should be exposed and exorcised.

Almighty money

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WROTE A FRIEND TO HIS RICH FRIEND: "I am happy that you have lots of money, but remember that there are many things money cannot buy in this world. Also, money can cause you so much pain and suffering. Because I am your friend, I want to take away your pain and sufferings. So send me all your money and I will suffer for you. Cash is fine. I accept checks, too."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 17-30), Jesus challenges a rich man to let go of his possessions and follow Him. But he couldn't just let go, and "he went away sad, for he had many possessions." Here was a wonderful opportunity to set himself free, but he was not open or generous enough, so he went back to his prison. Here was a clear case of quantity winning over quality of life, worldly investment over investment for eternity. Because of greed, fear and pride, many of us refuse to respond to the challenge of letting go and letting God.

* * *

Let's face it! The rich have easier, more comfortable and more convenient lives, but not necessarily happier lives. I know of rich people who live miserable lives because they have been possessed by their material possessions, and have been isolated by their earthly consolations. A lot, too, have given up friendships and even family relations because of their avid desire to get more and have more. Worse are those who have given up their name, values and principles, and even their very souls, for the sake of money and more money. Again we ask: What for? Is money worth it all?

* * *

I do a lot of begging and fund-raising in my work for the missions. As a whole, I experience generosity from people. But there are some who refuse outright, with an air of arrogance even. There are also those who give, but with a lot of measures and conditions. I take each case in stride. It's all part of my work. I look at begging as giving people the opportunity to be good and to do good, and to give them the opportunity to invest in eternity. I feel sad though whenever I encounter people who think that their worth is their money and the only thing that matters in this world is money. I actually pity them, and pray for them, for their poverty in spirit, and for their deep-seated insecurity and fears.

* * *

A dear friend, former Gov. Larry Guerrero of Saipan, passed away last Oct. 7. Here was one rich person who lived a beautiful and meaningful life because he knew how to put God over and above his power and riches. He helped a lot of Filipinos in Saipan. He left behind a joyful and loving family deeply rooted in God. He was not a slave to money. He used money to serve, and he used his money to invest for eternity. Yes, it is possible to be rich, and not to be filthy rich. It is possible to be rich, and to be within reach.

* * *

Whoever started it made the telecommunications companies rake in millions of pesos more. Last Oct. 11 and 12, I received from so many people a text message regarding a certain Fr. Ferdie Flores, reportedly a missionary in East Timor who was about to be executed by beating. Out of sincere concern, people passed on this text message which, I remember, I already got some months ago. I texted our Filipino SVD missionary in East Timor, Fr. Alan Bondoc, about it and he said there was no such name, and there was no such incident. Tsk, tsk. The things people do just to rake in more money, filthy money, blood money.

* * *

How wonderful it is when all people are focused on God and not on themselves. About 6,000 people walked with me from Urdaneta to Manaoag, Pangasinan last Oct. 7, praying the rosary continuously for three hours. We ended up with a Mass at the Manaoag Shrine. Even Army people in uniform joined us and protected the crowd. It was a beautiful, orderly and meaningful experience. There were no politicians in the crowd.

* * *

Yesterday, there was a Marian rally at Camp Aguinaldo. Yes, even the soldier is a child who needs a mother. Too bad he/she is often used by selfish people for their selfish agenda.

* * *

Let the killings stop! Now, they are killing priests and even bishops, like Alberto Ramento. All because of greed for money and power. See what money has done in our country? It is causing the decay of institutions. It has silenced many people. But money will not silence the prophets in our midst. Warning: Those who kill prophets will reap the whirlwind.

* * *

Inviting you for a talk on Mama Mary, at 7 p.m., Oct. 21, at the Shrine of the Divine Word, Christ the King Seminary, 1101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City. Yes, let us listen to the Blessed Mother. May she remind us once again of the virtues of simplicity, generosity, obedience and trust.

* * *

Calling all SVD and XVD alumni of Christ the King Mission Seminary, Quezon City for a grand homecoming on Oct. 21, 2006 (Saturday). Registration starts at 1 p.m. The theme for this year's reunion is "Re-live the Past, Renew Relationships, Build the Future." For inquiries, please call the XVD Association Office (410-4610, 721-7117) or contact Joseph Lallave 0917-8573458; Dante Magdangal 0920-9017308; Edwin Caluya 0916-3822296.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, let not money enslave or imprison me. Amen.

Balangiga and Catubig

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST SEPT. 28 WAS THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY of the Balangiga massacre. Just to refresh our memories, it was on a Sunday morning, Sept. 28, 1901, that Filipino guerrillas, under the overall command of Gen. Vicente Lukban, attacked a US detachment occupying a convent in the town of Balangiga, Eastern Samar. Company "C" of the 9th US Infantry arrived in the area a few weeks earlier in a bid to establish greater control over the island, which was one of the hotbeds of guerrilla action.

The ringing of the church bells that Sunday was the signal for the attack of some 500 men, who were armed with bolos and other improvised weapons such as picks and shovels. It was combat at close quarters, bolos against Krag rifles. All three officers of Company "C" would be hacked to death along with 35 of their men.

An hour later, the town plaza was a bloody mess with cracked skulls and human entrails littered all over the place.

Reprisal was swift. First on the scene was Company "G," also of the 9th Infantry. The force entered Balangiga firing away with Gatling machine guns and light cannon. Twenty natives captured at the edge of the town were brought to the plaza and executed. The bodies were doused with kerosene and set afire. All the houses were torched to the ground.

The church bells of Balangiga were taken by US troops and sent to the United States. They are kept at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the home state of Vice President Dick Cheney. Efforts at the highest levels to recover them have proven fruitless. Other nations have seen fit to return captured war booty but it appears that the bells of Balangiga are not coming home anytime soon.

* * *

A similar but lesser known incident also happened a year earlier in Catubig, Northern Samar.

According to an article by Richard K. Kolb, "Catastrophe at Catubig," Company "H" of the 43rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment was stationed in Catubig in late 1899. By April the next year, its raw recruits would be initiated into the harsh realities of guerrilla warfare.

April 15 was a typical Sunday morning for the garrison, when it was suddenly attacked by hundreds of guerrillas armed with bolos, pistols, spears and Spanish Mausers. They came from the surrounding hills and the town itself. "From a deserted church directly adjoining the convent," reported The New York Times, "came rifle and cannon fire of terrible intensity." After withstanding withering fire for two days, the soldiers' barracks—the convent—was set afire by burning hemp thrown from the church. Unable to extinguish the inferno, the soldiers were forced to flee the burning building and face their attackers.

When they reached the outside, the unit lost all coordination and broke up into two groups. All 15 men who made a run for the boats at the nearby Catubig River bank were killed. Some were cut down even before reaching the shore, while others died in the boats.

A second group reached the grass behind the smoldering convent, dug trenches with their bayonets and were able to hold out for two more days under extreme conditions. The hero of the day was Cpl. Anthony J. Carson who rallied the final dozen survivors. Carson was later awarded the Medal of Honor for "displaying extraordinarily good judgment in the handling of his men thereby saving the lives of the survivors and protecting the wounded until relief came."

Fortunately for them, after four days, a rescue party arrived. The relief force saved the survivors under a hail of Mauser bullets, allowing them to make it back to their base before the guerrillas could regroup and attack again.

"Our loss in this disastrous affair was 19 killed and three wounded," according to an officer's account in the War Department's 1900 annual report. Other reports mention 21 killed and 16 wounded. Catubig proved to be the third single deadliest engagement of the war.

The New York Times called it "one of the most thrilling and picturesque incidents of the entire Philippine War." The War Department, using far less glowing terms, said it was the "heaviest bloody encounter yet for American troops" in the war against the Filipinos.

* * *

Last April, for the first time in Philippine history, the glorious day was celebrated in a simple program in the town of Catubig. Gov. Raul Daza of Northern Samar paid tribute to the heroic feat of Filipino guerrillas, natives of Northern Samar, who fearlessly fought the US 43rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the war.

In his speech, Governor Daza narrated how the guerrillas were led by Domingo Rebadulla in the attack on the American forces. Daza went on to say, "in these days when our freedom is gravely threatened no longer by foreigners such as Spaniards or Americans, but rather by some of our own countrymen, let us honor our ancestors by vigilantly keeping faith with their ideals of freedom and patriotism, and by being ready at all times to stand by those ideals even at the risk of our lives. Domingo Rebadulla and his courageous men deserve no less."

* * *

One event is slowly receding from our memory as national leaders seem to have given up on the efforts to recover the bells of Balangiga. The other is just beginning to catch our attention, thanks to efforts of nationalists like Governor Daza.

Both events mark victories of Philippine revolutionary forces over the new colonial power equipped with modern arms and weapons. We owe it to future generations to continue to remember their achievements which showcase the fighting spirit and determination of our people. Their struggles cannot be considered of lesser significance than the battles fought in Bataan and Corregidor.

Iraq a dilemma for Blair's heir

WORLD VIEW

Ian Davidson

GORDON BROWN OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO SUCCEED TONY Blair as British prime minister. But it is less obvious that he is willing to do what is necessary to lead the Labor Party to victory in the next general election. In some critical sense, he must repudiate Blair's legacy, which, at a minimum, means promising to take Britain out of the Iraq War.

Brown has longed to be prime minister ever since May 12, 1994, the fateful day when John Smith, the Labor Party's leader in opposition, dropped dead of a heart attack. Two weeks later, on May 31, Blair and Brown met in a small restaurant in North London, and debated who should take over the party leadership. By the end of their discussion, they had made a double deal: Brown would stand aside and support Blair as the next party leader; in return, Blair would later give up the leadership to him.

Crucially, but inevitably, they did not agree when—or under what circumstances—Blair would fulfill his side of the bargain. Inevitably, they did not foresee that Blair would go on to win an unprecedented three successive election victories for Labor, in 1997, 2001 and 2005, and thus keep Labor in power for a record-breaking period of possibly as long as 13 years.

The key challenge for New Labor (as Blair re-styled his party with his characteristic gift for spin), was the management of the British economy. Since World War II, most British governments tried to manipulate the economy for short-term party advantage, usually with disastrous long-term results. This lamentable tradition was common to both Conservatives and Labor; and yet, unfairly, it was the Labor Party that was most contaminated by the smear that it could not be trusted to manage the economy.

Brown decisively changed that reputation. He has been probably the most outstanding Chancellor of the Exchequer in British history, not because of any inspiration or genius, but simply because he has built on a new tradition of prioritizing low inflation, low interest rates and stable government finances.

Brown understood that these priorities were essential, not just for the British economy, but also for the long-term prospects of Labor in power; and he entrenched this agenda by giving the Bank of England independent responsibility for keeping inflation low. As a result, Britain has had an unprecedented decade of low inflation and relatively high economic growth, outperforming many of its European counterparts.

But despite economic success, it became steadily clearer that Blair's time was running out. The electorate grew increasingly disillusioned with the unavoidable shortcomings of an over-familiar government, and the party grew increasingly discontented with a leader who had outstayed his welcome. At first, Blair thought that he could claim the right to remain in power for a third full five-year term. But the pressure on him to go has steadily risen, to the point where he has now almost promised to give up the premiership in the summer of 2007.

But no one knows exactly when, or how, Blair will step down. If there is a formal leadership contest, it seems likely that several rival candidates will aim to stand. But almost all authoritative observers seem to agree that Brown is by far the most likely man to be the next Labor prime minister.

That is the easy part. From that point on, no one seems certain whether Brown knows what to do, or has what it takes, to fight and win another general election for Labor. His reputation for command and control of the economy is magisterial and unchallenged, but he has given almost no clue as to what he thinks of other government policies. He has remained dour and almost silent, visibly chafing with impatience to come into his inheritance, but offering no hint of what difference he would make when he does.

The one thing he cannot do is promise to continue Blair's policies. If Brown offers more of the same, he will lose. After 10 years of Blair, he must offer one or more policies that mark a clear break.

The most obvious candidate for such a policy switch is Iraq: if Brown wants to win an election as Labor leader, he must renounce Blair's policy and announce the withdrawal, in short order, of British troops. In tactical terms, this should be easy and obvious: whatever the deceitful and illegal reasons originally given for invading Iraq, everyone now knows that this war has proved a political, strategic and moral catastrophe. Everyone knows that it cannot be "won," whatever that means, and Brown knows that both the war and Britain's servile subordination to the Bush administration are deeply unpopular in Britain.

This is the issue that is crying out to be addressed: but so far none of the main political parties has dared touch it. In the past three weeks, Labor, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have all held their annual conferences. All of them concentrated on domestic policies; none dared discuss Iraq, because they all know that to do so would raise the question of withdrawal, which in turn would unleash a major and possibly explosive debate about Britain's relationship with the United States.

Does Brown have the stomach to take on the risks involved in confronting the Iraq question? Possibly not. He may decide that it is too difficult, in which case he will be a lame duck prime minister, condemned to serve out the three years remaining in Labor's current term with no hope of winning the next election. That is not what he planned when he struck his bargain with Blair back in 1994. *Project Syndicate*

Ian Davidson is an adviser to, and a columnist for, the European Policy Centre, Brussels. A former columnist for the Financial Times, his most recent book is "Voltaire in Exile."

An ambitious formula movie

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GRANDEUR. DRAMA. EXQUISITE PHOTOGRAphy. Martial arts sequences that look more like choreographed dances, with warriors soaring through the air, swords flailing and robes swirling in unison.

These have become, in recent years, the hallmarks of "grand" Chinese moviemaking that international audiences have come to expect. Since "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Hero" "House of Flying Daggers" and "The Promise," Chinese and Hong Kong filmmakers have mined Chinese myth and history to create movies that aspire to epic proportions and characters with grand ambitions and overwhelming passions. If this is formula moviemaking, then at least it's a formula with dazzling ambitions.

"The Banquet" belongs to this genre, being a story of "desire"—as its director Feng Xiaogang says—set in the era of Chinese history known as the "Period of Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms," when empires battled each other for control of the land.

It centers on a struggle for power over an empire and the empress' heart. Ziyi Zhang portrays Empress Wan who had been Crown Prince Wu Luan's (Daniel Wu) beloved before his father, the Emperor, decided to make Wan his wife. The movie opens after the Emperor's death and the succession of his younger brother Li (Ge You) to the throne. Wan sends a messenger to Wu Luan, who retreated to the countryside to pursue the arts, urging him to claim his rightful due, not knowing that Emperor Li has also dispatched a troop of assassins to prevent the nephew from ascending to the throne.

It's against this backdrop of courtly intrigue and political turmoil that a more personal, passionate battle among Wan, Wu Luan and Li unfolds. Wan starts out seeking to protect Wu Luan and to avenge the Emperor's death, but she discovers that her own survival and hold on power depends on maintaining Li's devotion and trust.

The competing desires of the three main characters come to a final confrontation in a grand banquet that Emperor Li hosts in a bid to ferret out those conspiring against him. Who will prevail? And who will win Wan's heart?

* * *

NEWS has it that Feng, who's currently China's "box-office king" with a string of successful comedies, is once again ruling the roost with "The Banquet." But homegrown critics and audiences are said to be having problems taking the movie and its high-flying intentions seriously.

Feng, it is reported, is best-known for his comedies, and audiences are having trouble appreciating this attempt at grandiose drama. Moviegoers have even broken out laughing at every scene of Ge You, who is a creditable actor but is best known among the Chinese as a comedian.

But to the moviegoer who watches "The Banquet" with fresh and innocent eyes, the film is a treat visually and emotionally. The score by Tan Dun, who won an Oscar for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," is almost a separate character, imbuing scenes with sentiment and motion, excitement and emotion.

Critics are raving about Ziyi Zhang's beauty and sensuality, but I found that she lacked the necessary "heft" for the role of the scheming empress. Ge You, for all the laughter his appearance evokes in China, is actually very effective as the villain Li, while Daniel Wu, who has all the makings of a matinee idol, is rather wooden. Still, overall, "The Banquet" makes for quite a satisfying moviegoing experience. Though I would suggest that Chinese filmmakers and producers find a way soon to break out of the "grand" formula they have created, if only to prevent the global audience from yawning from boredom, which is what, critics say, the Chinese and Hong Kong audience are now beginning to do.

* * *

QUITE different in scope and ambition is "World Trade Center" which, with "United 93" and "Fahrenheit 9/11," marks what could be the beginning of a filmic franchise on the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

This time around, director Oliver Stone tells the story of two Port Authority police officers who respond to the call to evacuate the Twin Towers and then are buried in the rubble when the complex collapses.

Although its promotions advertise "WTC" as a movie about "courage," we don't really see much heroism here because the two policemen are caught in the building collapse before they can do any rescuing or even help anybody. But I suppose there is courage aplenty in just keeping one's wits about you in the midst of uncertainty and pain, in believing one can survive the worst cruelties that human beings can inflict on one another.

Some may look on the film as a cop-out, especially from Stone who in previous films did not hesitate to take on unpopular causes or question conventional beliefs. This time around, he skirts the political implications of 9/11, and the actuations of American officialdom on that crucial day. By focusing intently and almost exclusively on the plight of the two men as well as on their families' anguish and uncertainty, he taps into the personal and emotional dimensions of the disaster. But he also plays into the hands of those who in fact want America and the world to understand the events of 9/11 solely from this perspective, as if the terrorists were motivated by personal malice and desire to inflict individual harm.

Of course, one doesn't expect Stone to make a feature film version of "Fahrenheit 9/11," which in Michael Moore's hands became a diatribe against the web of duplicity woven by the Bush administration to use the WTC attacks to justify the attack on Afghanistan and the war on Iraq. But a little more political awareness, or a broader view, couldn't have hurt. One wonders why Stone chose to make this kind of movie about 9/11. Is it a concession to popular sentiment, or a refusal to see the big picture?

Decency and public utility firms

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SHORTLY BEFORE THE WINDS OF TYPHOON "Milenyo" began battering Metro Manila, the public utilities that form the lifeline of modern communities ground to a halt. Electricity was the first to be shut off, followed by the telephone service. I expected the water supply to be next. To my pleasant amazement, in the UP campus where we live, the water that comes from Manila Water's pipes flowed uninterrupted.

I texted my compliments to the water firm's territorial business manager in charge of the campus, and asked how the company kept the water going even after the Luzon power grid had collapsed. I later found out that because of Manila Water's stand-by generators, the pumping stations continued to function, and only 5 percent of the households in the entire East Zone concession suffered water interruption. The company promptly deployed its tankers to these waterless neighborhoods to deliver their daily supply of water.

In total contrast, we got our electricity back only after one full week of waiting. Every morning, my wife and I took turns to call Meralco's emergency number to report the fallen power line leading to our house. And every afternoon, I went around the campus searching for Meralco repair crews who might be working somewhere in the neighborhood. Meralco's telephone numbers were understandably clogged during this time, and waiting for a customer service agent to take up a call meant having to listen to the relentless playing of the firm's signature song. The song celebrates Meralco's vaunted reliability and concept of service. I thought that continuing to play it under the circumstances was the height of corporate insensitivity.

On the fourth day, eating dinner by candle light had lost all its novelty and romance. We ate early and went to bed early. It was impossible to do any reading. My mood turned really sour when on the fifth day the lights came back in every household in our neighborhood except in ours. Even the street lamp outside our house came to life, taunting us with its amber light. Instead of Meralco, thieves came the previous night to saw off a portion of the rubber-coated aluminum wire, and now the live wire was dangerously dangling by the road. I explained this to the call center agent who took my call, but all she could utter was a standard line that resonated none of the urgency and despair I felt.

I began to contemplate installing solar panels on our roof and fantasized about smashing the electric meter when, one morning, a Meralco meter reader sheepishly asked to be let in to take a reading while the power was still down. Finally, I caught up with a Meralco van and pleaded with its driver to take a look at our power line. He said our street was not on his list for the day but that he would in any case ask a repair crew to restore the connection that same afternoon. A repair crew came and promptly restored the power. When my granddaughter gleefully announced the return of Spongebob on the TV screen, my resentment evaporated and my faith in Meralco was instantly restored. I realized how easily we forget our grievances when service providers show that they care.

But PLDT, the telephone company, was an altogether different story. It took two weeks before a PLDT crew would even take a look at our two land lines that went dead in the wake of Milenyo. I use our land lines mainly to connect to my Internet service provider. By the time the repair men came, I had made up my mind about replacing my dial-up ISP with a wireless one. Thank God telephones are no longer a PLDT monopoly. The PLDT crew replaced the worn-out wires with brand new ones, but I don't know what they did with the lines. The dial tones of the two phones alternately vanish every hour.

One finds in these sketches three models of corporate culture. What sets them apart from one another is an ethos of service that Manila Water, as a public utility firm, seems to have cultivated to a high degree. It appears to be based on a few simple principles: anticipation of possible disruptions, adequate preparation for emergencies, regular maintenance of the delivery system, a continuity team that is activated in times of disaster, and provision of substitute services during prolonged interruptions of regular service.

If Meralco were half as conscientious as Manila Water, it could have sent its representatives to various neighborhoods to personally take down requests for repair. It would have offered complimentary flashlights or lamps to its customers, accompanied by profuse apologies for the delay in restoring power. It would probably take the initiative to trim the trees that hang over power lines before every typhoon season, and replace old rotten posts with new ones without waiting to be asked.

If PLDT were half as sensitive as Manila Water, they would deduct from their monthly charges a substantial rebate for each day that the phone service is down. They might perhaps lend service cell phones or give away phone cards to households inconvenienced by service interruptions. They might do something to secure the land lines so they do not go dead during heavy downpours. They would not hide behind the voices of anonymous call center agents, or use these poor kids as buffers against an irate public.

Public utilities are called "public" because they are not like ordinary businesses. They are impressed with public interest, which is why their privatization everywhere is typically greeted with dismay. Manila Water is exceptional in this regard. By valuing and caring for its clients, it has given privatization a good name.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Not guilty

"If there are people who believe my conduct during that period was less than proper or less than legal or less than correct, they're free within the legal system to assert their rights. And I'm equally free and ready to defend myself because I don't think I committed any violation of the law, or a violation of the human rights of anybody if that is the charge."

—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, reacting to criticism he is unfit to be chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights because of his involvement in martial law

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Disasters creating refugees

DISASTERS, NATURAL AND MAN-MADE, ARE displacing a growing number of people across the globe, creating environmental refugees.

People are forced to leave their homes because of natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, typhoons, floods, landslides and El Niño. Pollution, oil and mine spills and other man-made disasters are also driving people out of their communities.

With its typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and landslides, the Philippines has earned the distinction of being the fourth most disaster-prone country in the world.

From January to September this year, 3 million Filipinos had already been affected by disasters, more than the 2.6 million in 2005, according to a nongovernment disaster response group. Among them are the residents of Guimaras Island who were exposed to toxic fumes from the oil spill caused by the sinking of a tanker.

Environmental refugees may already be the biggest single group of displaced people, according to an officer of the International Council of Environmental Law.

EVACUEES struggled to walk in mud on Dec. 2, 2004 in the typhoon-ravaged town of Real, Quezon. AP

Environmental refugees a growing phenomenon

By Amado S. Tolentino Jr.

REFUGEES ARE PEOPLE who seek asylum for fear of political, racial or religious persecution. They leave their homes because of war or civil strife. This traditional notion of refugees, however, leaves out the new and growing phenomenon of people becoming environmental refugees due to natural occurrences like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods and landslides.

The explosion of a nuclear reactor in Ukraine in 1986 best illustrates environmental refugeeism. The world's worst nuclear disaster permanently contaminated the city of Chernobyl and prevented its residents from coming back home.

In the Philippines, mudslides triggered by heavy rains buried hundreds of houses and a school in Saint Bernard, Leyte last February resulting in death and injuries to people. The survivors became environmental refugees, unable to return to their village now covered by hardened mud.

Guimaras oil spill

Similarly, the massive oil spill from a sunken tanker off the coast of Guimaras Island in August drove many fishermen and tour operators away from their source of livelihood—marine areas once teeming with fish, mangroves, diving and snorkeling sites, and beaches now tainted with bunker fuel oil.

It took six months to clean up the damage caused by the Semirara oil spill in Antique last year and some more months before the fisherfolk could return to their source of livelihood. Experts say it will take years before Nueva Valencia, the hardest hit town in Guimaras, can fully recover from the economic and ecological disaster brought about by the sinking of Solar I. The threat of massive eruption of Mayon Volcano made residents on the slopes of the "perfect cone" short-time refugees. Now, residents of Irosin, Sorsogon face displacement if Mt. Bulusan erupts violently.

In many parts of the world, areas are becoming unfit for human habitation not only because of catastrophic events, but also because of unsustainable land practices like overgrazing, logging and mining, which reduce the capability of ecosystems to support life known in environmental science as "carrying capacity."

Nomads

In northern Africa, for instance, conversion of the nomad's domain to sedentary farming concentrated large number of people and their livestock around oases, which in the past were visited only on a seasonal basis.

This has a devastating effect on local vegetation and water supply. In fact, the lower resiliency of arid ecosystems to environmental stress, exacerbated by shifting sand dunes, made it impossible for seasonal pasturelands around many oases to recover, driving tens of thousands of environmental refugees into towns and cities or into relief camps.

Environmental refugeeism is also brought about by land being despoiled through long-term degradation. Examples are gradual poisoning of land and water by toxic wastes. Building homes in areas prone to avalanches and floods, air and water pollution made worse by uncontrolled industrial expansion and vehicular emissions also adversely affect the land.

Degraded lands become depleted of nutrients, stripped of topsoil and no longer able to withstand natural stresses such as drought or heavy rain.

Chemicals

Habitability declines in stages. Health becomes threatened first. The final stage occurs when the land becomes uninhabitable. This is best exemplified by the desertification in sub-Saharan Africa where once productive lands made refugees out of its impoverished settler farmers. Migration signals the end of land use to sustain life.

Unknown to many, chemical production causes environmental refugeeism. Chemical use releases large quantities of hazardous wastes into the environment. Residues from pesticides and herbicides end up in rivers, bays and aquifers. Exhaust from cars and factories pollutes the air. Industrial wastes buried in landfills seep into groundwater and poison soils. Ultimately, these waste products affect biological productivity and human health. In some areas, the toxic hazards have forced people to move away.

Such was the case in Love Canal (NY, USA), a community built on a chemical waste landfill. Residents were evacuated on the basis of evidence showing a high incidence of reproductive problems among women and high levels of chemical contamination in homes. Millions of dollars were spent until parts of the area were declared safe for habitation.

Studies show that rising seas will supplant encroaching deserts and other forms of land degradation as the major threat to the habitability of many places this century. Global warming brought about by excessive use of fossil fuel is reportedly causing thermal expansion of the oceans and melting of the ice caps. A one-meter increase in sea level will displace millions in the delta regions of the Nile and Ganges rivers.

Rising sea levels

The combined effects of warmer climates and higher seas will make typhoons more frequent and destructive, further damaging the habitability of coastal areas. Extensive river diversions will markedly reduce the amount of freshwater discharged into coastal areas.

Higher sea levels will increase saltwater intrusion, thus reducing mangrove forest cover and disrupting major fisheries within fragile ecosystems. Endangered places that may cease to exist include Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, Maldives in the Indian Ocean and a string of emerald islands and islets in the Caribbean.

Poverty and inadequate development policies along with rapid population growth are the roots of environmental degradation in the developing world. The environmental refugees may already be the biggest single group of displaced persons.

Some villages in the Philippines were once covered by forests but are now virtually denuded. Areas susceptible to earthquakes are inhabited by thousands of Nepalis. Bars of silt and sand called *chars* in the middle of the Bengal delta are home to millions of Bangladeshis. Thousands of Latin American slum dwellers, living in hovels perched on deforested hillsides, are potential mudslide victims during heavy rainstorms. All of them are potential environmental refugees.

Improvement in general environmental practices particularly agricultural methods including soil conservation would help prevent migration of people. Above all, however, rapid population growth must be curtailed particularly in places most vulnerable to ecological disasters.

(Tolentino is the executive director [for developing countries] of the International Council of Environmental Law, a Bonn-based public interest organization with consultative status at the UN. He served as Philippine ambassador to Papua New Guinea and Qatar.)

RP world's fourth most disaster-prone country

By the Center for People Empowerment in Governance

THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY the two recent major disasters should no longer be seen as a problem best left to government's disaster coordinating officials alone. Serious flaws in government's economic development priorities and faulty public governance have led to the increase in the vulnerability of people and communities to calamities and, worse, in bigger number of lives lost and hopes for a better life shattered.

Has the government been jolted out of complacency or gone beyond merely declaring affected provinces as "calamity areas" by undertaking bold policy reform? Is there really nothing that can be done to protect people's lives and their livelihood from future disasters?

In just a month, the Philippines was struck by two major calamities: The Guimaras oil slick, which hit several western Visayas coastal provinces in August, and Typhoon "Milenyo," which devastated Luzon provinces including Metro Manila on Sept. 28. Being the world's fourth most disaster-prone country (after China, India and Iran), such disasters whether natural as in the case of Typhoon Milenyo, or man-made as in the Guimaras tragedy, are often taken as nothing new.

Some alarming trends cry for attention, however. The impact of disasters such as typhoons, floods, monsoon rains, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides has worsened in recent years. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies report that some 5.9 million Filipinos were killed or injured as a result of natural or man-made calamities in 1992-2001. That's already about 5 percent of the country's current population.

The rising toll can also be attributed to the increase in the reported number of disaster incidents in the country: From 199 in 2001, it leaped to 313 in 2002 and 384 in 2005. The nongovernment Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) reports that the number of people affected by disasters in 2005 was 528,151 families or 2.6 million people. In January to September this year alone, the total had reached 584,607 families or 3 million people.

Typhoon Milenyo

The CDRC report does not include the recent damage caused by Typhoon Milenyo: 200 deaths as of Oct. 3, 1.3 million people displaced, including 171,000 evacuees and about 43 million affected by blackouts.

Flash floods account for the biggest number of people uprooted: In 2005, the total reached 344,378 families or 1.8 million people or half the total number directly displaced by all disasters that year, based on CDRC monitoring.

The CDRC adds drought, fire, red tide, fish kill, epidemic outbreak, infestation, tornado and armed conflict in its disaster monitoring. Not included are other man-made disasters such as sea, air and road mishaps as well as oil spills.

Normally, government reports measure the impact of disasters based on economic losses, the number of people killed or uprooted, and damage to infrastructure, among others. Over-attention to quantifiable effects, however, tends to gloss over other indicators that are often far-reaching and which are lost in the bureaucratic maze. These include long-term effects on livelihood and employment, health, nutrition, education and other social and psychological impact that only the keen and compassionate policy-maker is able to detect.

For instance, Central Luzon still reels from the impact of the Mt. Pinatubo volcanic eruption 15 years ago notably due to mud flows that inundate farms, fishponds and whole villages. Among other reasons, loss of income and destruction of farms have made the region one of the leading generators of overseas Filipino workers.

And yet, all these and other problems can be stopped or at least prevented or mitigated.

The number of families, communities, lands and other productive resources affected by calamities has increased at alarming rates because of the rise in their level of vulnerability. Contributing to the increase of vulnerability to disasters are poverty and unemployment, lack of land, shelter and food security, and poor access to health and other social services.

Logging

Big populations which face higher risks during disasters owing to their dire social and economic conditions are in the provinces especially those living near or on uplands, near logging and mining areas, coastal areas and other farm communities. In the cities, they are the urban poor who are forced to live by the riverbanks and coasts, under the bridges or beside dumps. All these are high-risk disaster zones.

In fact, the whole Philippine archipelago, including its seas and marine grounds, is a potential disaster area. This explains why, of late, whenever a major disaster happens—like the Guimaras oil spill—whole regions or one of the country's three major islands are declared "calamity areas."

Except for a few small zones, the whole country has been stripped of its forests due to unmitigated logging and mining operations that, for several decades, have only benefited a few families and transnational corporations. Foreign-funded dams that were built purportedly to provide power for industries and irrigation for large farm estates now disgorge flash floods that submerge whole provinces and ruin their economies.

The Mining Act of 1995, which the Arroyo administration implemented last year, will subject 13 million hectares or 45 percent of the country's land area to mining exploration and extraction. Justified by President Macapagal-Arroyo as urgent in order to address the government's fiscal crisis, the Act will result in the large-scale displacement of communities and in the destruction of lands, deforestation and the flattening of mountains, erosion, siltation, desertification, and pollution of rivers and marine life. In areas where new mining operations have started, disaster incidents have taken place, including the spread of toxic pollutants and flash floods.

Definitely, something is wrong when government economic programs are crafted principally to address the fiscal crisis and debt servicing regardless of their grim effects on people and their livelihood. State policies are aligned to international credit institutions' impositions and preferences for extractive production and commercial exportation, while opening the domestic market wider for imports at the expense of the country's farmers and other small producers. All these contribute to the further marginalization of the people and, consequently, to their risk of exposure to disasters.

(CenPEG is a public policy center that seeks to promote people empowerment in governance.)

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Church tells gov't, MILF: Talk again

COTABATO CITY—MINDANAO RELIGIOUS leaders have urged anew the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation (MILF) to go back to the negotiating table amid the recent bomb attacks pinned on the rebel group.

The peace talks hit a snag over the issue of territory because the MILF wants to include more villages in the Bangsamoro juridical entity than the government was willing to let go.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said only negotiations could address the Moro rebellion, which has been going on for more than three decades already.

Quevedo also urged civil society groups to "get out of the box" and make a stand on the ongoing impasse.

Msgr. Jose Colin Bagaforo, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Cotabato, said there are more to gain if both sides stick to a peaceful solution.

"We have learned from our experiences in the past [that] talking on opposite sides of the negotiating table is still the most rightful thing to do in resolving conflict," he said.

Earlier, the Bishop-Ulama Forum, a grouping of Christian and Muslim religious leaders, also aired appeals for the immediate resumption of the peace process.

Aleem Abdul Aziz Mimbantas, MILF deputy military chief, in a statement, warned of the resumption of hostilities in Mindanao once the peace talks collapse.

He said the "final termination of the peace negotiation will probably lead to the recurrence of a widespread unrest in the land, but the government has only itself to blame."

Other MILF leaders said the impasse has also enticed other groups to pursue their plan of sowing dissension among the people of Mindanao.

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said among these moves was the bomb attacks in Tacurong City, Makilala, North Cotabato and this city.

The bomb attacks, which killed at least six people and wounded more than two dozen other people, was condemned by the Assembly of Philippine Da'rul Ifta (Houses of Opinion), which groups Islamic scholars, as an act by the "worst of unbelieving individuals."

"All [we are] asking on Ramadan is peace and blessings of Allah, and this comes not from bloodshed but in fasting and the serenity of true meditation in worship," Ustadz Muhammad Solaiman of the Ulama Congress of the Philippines said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol had blamed the MILF for the attacks. He even named alleged MILF sub-commander Basit Usman as the mastermind.

Iqbal denied that Usman belonged to the rebel group.

But while accusing the MILF of condoning the bomb attacks, Piñol said he still wanted the peace talks to continue.

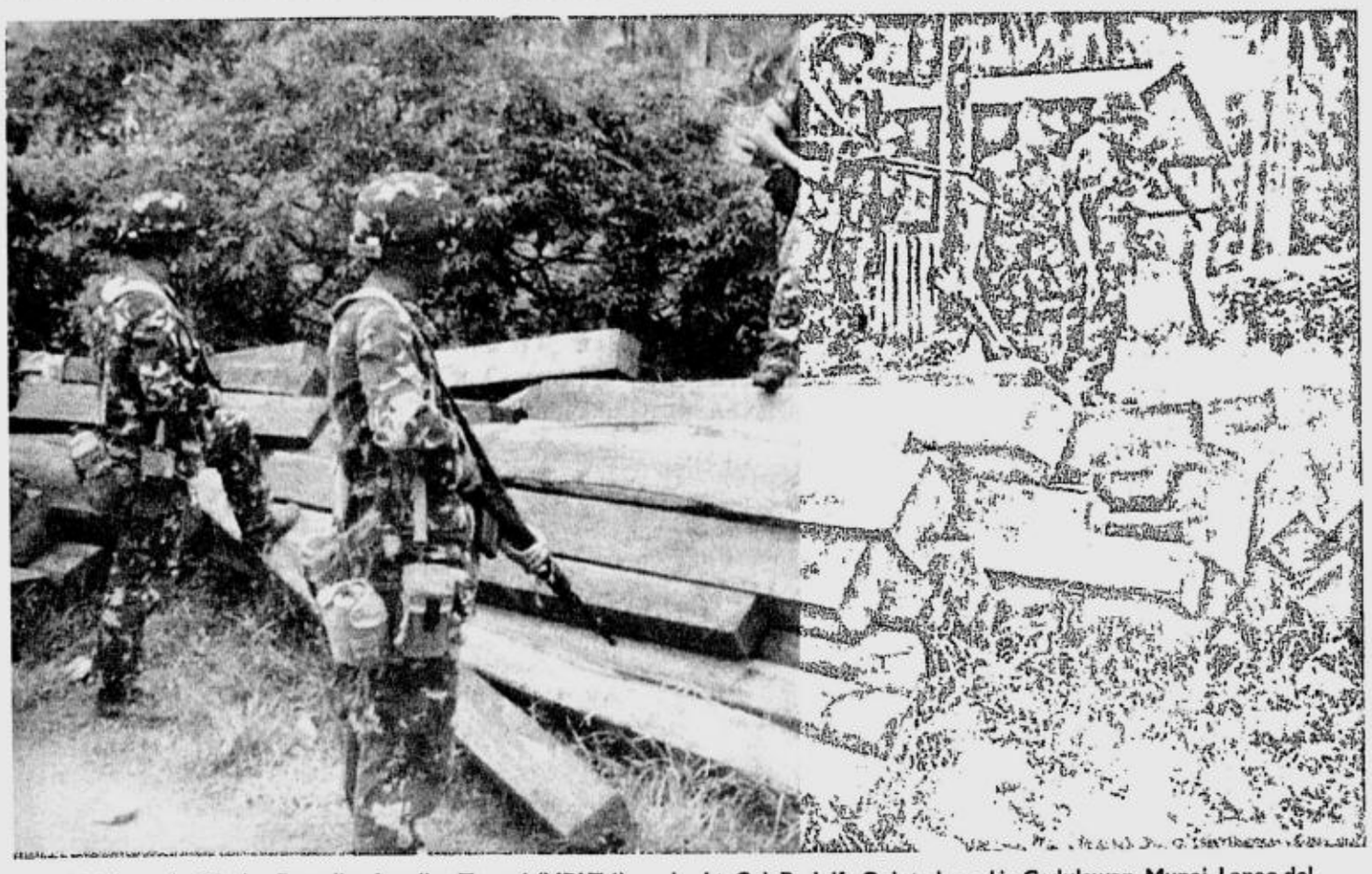
"I still believe that the only humane way to attain peace in our land is through peaceful means. We have been through war situations in the past, we know how hard it was, we do not want to see our people suffering and children dying in evacuation centers because of war," he told reporters.

Piñol said the issue on the involvement of the MILF in the bomb attacks could be best dealt with at the level of the peace panels.

He recently filed complaints against the rebel group.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the MILF has also filed a protest over Piñol's accusations.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Nash B. Maulana, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jeoffrey Maitem and Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao



TROOPS from the Marine Battalion Landing Team 6 (MBLT 6), under Lt. Col. Rodolfo Quinto based in Cadulawan, Munai, Lanao del Norte, guard one of the four stockpiles of mahogany flitches intercepted in the hinterlands ready for transport. The illegally cut forest products have no permit from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 10.

RICHEL V. UMEL/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Illegal logging goes on in reforestation project

MUNAI, LANAO DEL NORTE—The government reforestation project in Barangay Lininding here has become the target of illegal loggers, Mayor Hadji Casan Maquiling said.

Maquiling issued the statement after Marines confiscated 656 flitches of mahogany during a raid in Barangay Balintad on Tuesday.

The reforestation project, which is inside the former logging area of Finlay Millar Timber Company, is a protected area and no cutting of trees had been allowed there according to Maquiling.

Maquiling said elements of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 6 under Lt. Col. Rodolfo Quinto did a splendid job when they seized the flitches owned by several people, including an Usman Baso. It was valued at P1 million.

Baso denied the flitches were from illegally cut forest products.

He said he had been issued a permit by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cut trees in the province.

But Ben Ali Decampong, provincial environment officer, said Baso's permit had long been cancelled as the province implemented a log ban.

Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo has called on the DENR to prosecute the people behind illegal logging activities in the province.

Dimaporo said illegal logging activities defeat the efforts to maintain the ecological balance of the province.

In some areas in Mindanao, illegal logging persists with the connivance of local and environment officials.

In the Sierra Madre mountain range alone, illegal loggers are virtually operating with impunity and continue to ravage the mountain's forests. *Richel V. Umel, Inquirer Mindanao Bureau*

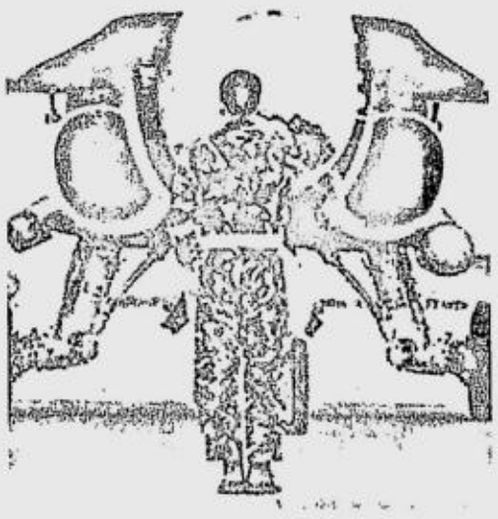
Fil-Am plays major role in ongoing war exercises

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—A Filipino-American Marine officer is playing a major role in the two-week Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercises participated in by Filipino and American soldiers here.

Maj. Ferdinand Llantero, 39, a native of San Felipe, Zambales, is operations officer of the Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 joining the exercises.

Llantero is the second highest officer in the American contingent holding exercises in this camp. He takes orders from Lt. Col. Tracy King, commander of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force-1st Marine Aircraft Wing, in the planning and execution of the exercises.



AN AIRFIELD management specialist of the Philippine Air Force greets a pilot of an F/A-18C Super Hornets from the US Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan that arrived at Clark Air Base Oct. 12. The Super Hornets belong to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122, and are currently attached to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The planes are here as part of bilateral exercises Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercise.

OFFICIAL US MARINE CORPS PHOTO

Around 1,000 American soldiers, along with their Filipino counterparts, are staying here from Oct. 16 to Oct. 31 for the exercises.

Llantero, King and their men set up base here more than a week ahead of the bulk of the participants. Their first major activity was the medical-dental and gift-giving mission held in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija on Oct. 11.

Capt. Burrel Parmer, US Marine spokesperson, said about 5,700 US Marines and sailors are participating in the exercises. At least 1,300 Filipino soldiers from the Philippine Air Force, Philippine Army and Philippine Navy are participating.

Llantero, a civil engineering graduate of the University of the East, migrated to the US and joined the US Marines in the late 1980s.

He was among the group of 500 American soldiers who helped in disaster relief operations when flash floods hit parts of Quezon in December 2004.

He was in Indonesia in January 2005 to help victims of the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami. Later in 2005, he was deployed to Iraq to help in reconstruction work conducted by the US military.

Llantero said his previous assignments had taken him to Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for humanitarian missions.

An enlisted man, Llantero saw action in the Gulf War in the early 1991. After his commission as a second lieutenant, he was sent to combat operations in Iraq in 1993.

He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, as head engineer in the Marine headquarters there in late 2003.

"*Halu-halo ang* experiences *ko* (My military assignments vary). Combat at humanitarian. I am in both sides of the fence, so to speak," Llantero said.

His Ilocano grandfather, he said, was among the sacada (sugarcane field workers) who went to Hawaii in the early 1900s.

Llantero said in 1980, his grandfather asked his father, Tranquilino, a mechanical engineer, to settle and work in Hawaii. Llantero's mother, Nenita and three brothers followed him in 1987. (He has six siblings; all of them now based in the US).

He is married to a Filipina, Rosemary, who was a former accountant in a Canadian firm. "She is full-time caretaker of our two children and our home in Okinawa," he said.

"I am happy that I am in my native land again and working side by side with our *kababayan* soldiers," he said.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Living, not dying, with AIDS in Davao

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

AT ONE MOMENT, the audience froze with undivided attention as she talked. In the next, they broke into hearty laughter with her. Then, she again mellowed as she narrated how she nurtured her relationship with her two young children.

Sheila Magpaye (as she is named by media people), 31, is an image of an accomplished and proud mother, telling everyone in the room how she was preparing for the education and future of her children, aged 9 and 11. Beyond the beautiful face and streaked hair is a woman engaged in battle, not only for her and her family but also for many other people.

Magpaye has been living with HIV-AIDS for nine years.

Clad in a brown, sleeveless blouse hidden by a gray cotton blazer, she faced the media to tell her story all over again—her fears and feelings of devastation, survival, advocacy, love affair and marriage to another person with HIV-AIDS (who died eight days after their wedding) and her children.

"As a mother, I often kiss my children. The relationship is still there," she said as she quickly looked at everyone in the eyes, as if to dispel the common fear and misconception that children might contract the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) through her saliva.

Magpaye was diagnosed with HIV in 1998, shortly after her youngest child was born. Since then, she said, she had not expected to reach this far and vowed that she would throw a lavish party should she survive this year.

Family breadwinner

When she was 16 years old, Magpaye was already the family breadwinner. She was forced into prostitution to feed her family and send her eight siblings to school.

"My family was always the reason I was in the 'industry.' We needed to eat and my brothers and sister had to go to school. As the eldest member of the family, I had to face any kind of battle," she said.

"I was disillusioned by the situation and thought that I can escape from the situation by getting pregnant but it only worsened," she said, referring to her live-in partner for many years.

Magpaye was even forced to work days after her youngest child was born. She was still bleeding and her genital wounds were still fresh.

"I had to go back to work or my baby will die because my breasts were not producing milk. All I was thinking was to have money and buy milk for my child," she said.

Magpaye decided to be an *aky-at-barko* and offer sex to the crew of foreign-registered boats in one port city in Mindanao in exchange for a large sum of money. While having sex with a Thai, the condom broke.

A year later, she was diagnosed as having the HIV. She found herself embattled by denial, fear, isolation, societal stigma and extreme depression that almost drove her to attempt suicide. Her partner also abandoned her.

Still beautiful

Although her family and several close friends were supportive, Magpaye took three painful years to accept her condition. "Nine years *na akong* HIV positive ... *Gwapa lang gihapon* (I have been HIV positive for nine years ... but still beautiful)," she said.

In Davao City, Magpaye is one of 18 cases of people living with HIV-AIDS that have been recorded since 1984, according to the Alliance Against AIDS (Alagad-Mindanao), which is composed of reproductive health advocates. Seven of the cases are females.

Mike Mahinay of the Alagad-Mindanao said that his group was able to document 44 HIV-AIDS cases all over Mindanao, 21 of whom had already died. General Santos City has nine documented cases, five of whom have died.

As of June, Mahinay said, 33 new cases—17 males and 16 females—had been reported.

As of August, at least 2,566 Filipinos have been recorded as having HIV-AIDS, 1,835 (72 percent) of which showed no signs and symptoms and 731 (28 percent) are AIDS cases. Mahinay said 287 or 39 percent had already died.

Seafarers, helpers

It was also found that 891 (35 percent) HIV cases were overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), 303 (34 percent) of whom were seafarers and 156 (18 percent), domestic helpers. Mahinay said that in 93 percent of the cases, the virus was sexually transmitted.

Magpaye's children are aware that she has HIV-AIDS, she said. But young as they are, they already grasp what she has been into—an awareness leading to understanding, which, in turn, led to reciprocated love and comforting.

In fact, the two are even aware of the precautionary measures they need to observe for them to avoid getting the virus, she said.

"If they have cuts, they immediately tell me and ask me if I also have open wounds. Then they ask me to clean their wounds and put plaster on it," she said in a mix of the vernacular and English.

"My children loved to kiss me a lot which prompted me to have all my decaying teeth extracted for fear that I might get gingivitis and thus put them at risk. When I have cough, I see to it that we don't kiss each other," she said.

And the fear came when, years ago, one of her children was diagnosed as having a primary complex which prompted Magpaye's infectious disease specialist to recommend an HIV testing.

"It was like I was floating on air while I was thinking about my child. I was being bombarded by many questions and found myself praying to practically all saints to spare my child... name a saint, I have called them all," she said.

She explained that she should always keep a happy temperament or else her immune system would again swing low.

"After nine years, I have already accepted it. Perhaps, this is really my life. Still, I am afraid to die and leave my children," she said.

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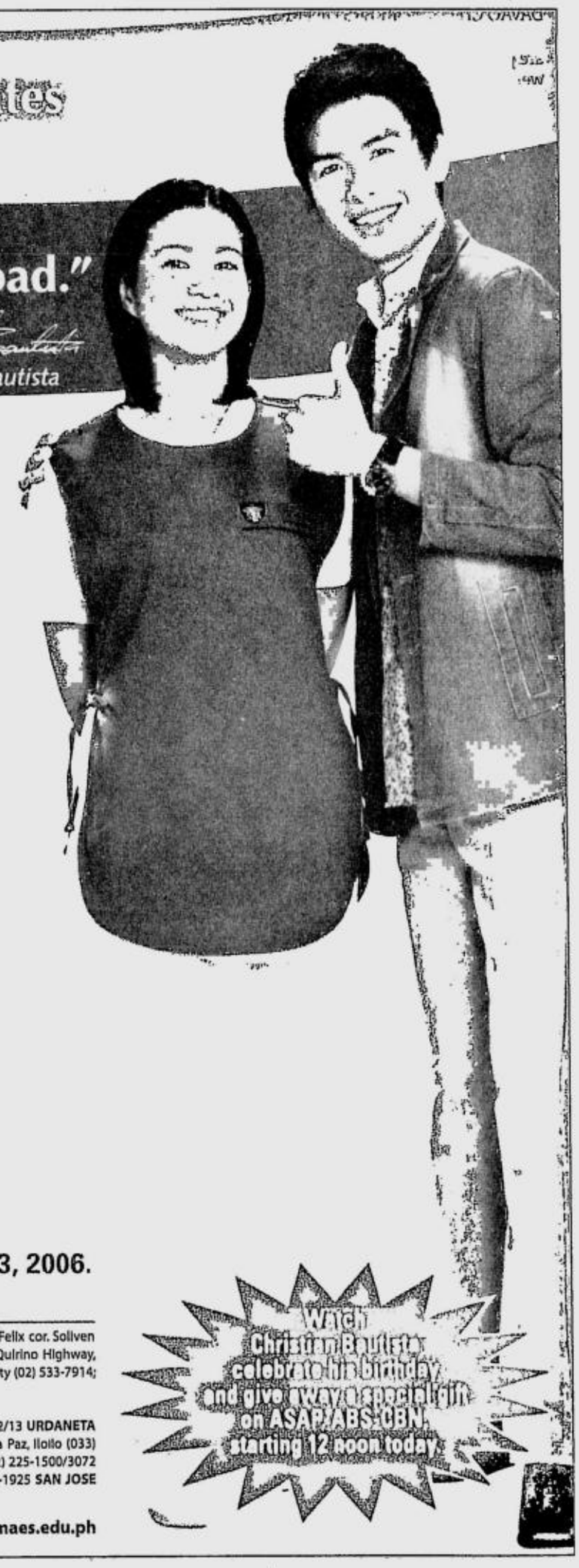

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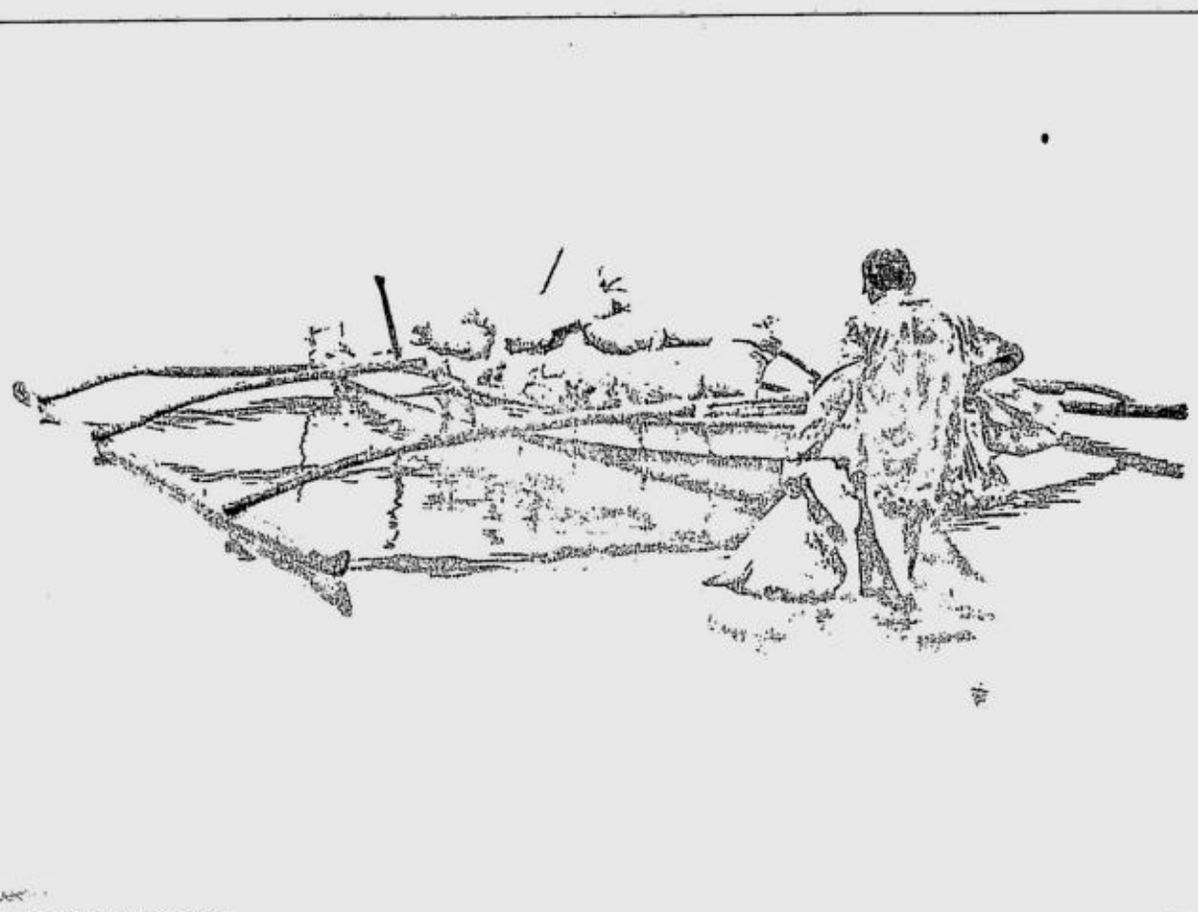

FISHERMEN ONCE

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Residents of the village of Tando in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras spend their time working on the sludge of the bunker fuel of Petron Corp. that spilled and hit the shoreline of their town. Although Petron has declared the area clean, the residents who depend on fishing for a living are now in a quandary over where to get alternative livelihood as their fishing grounds have been rendered unproductive by the oil spill.

Phivolcs says Bulusan quiet after tantrum

SORSOGON CITY—THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) clarified published reports from the wires (AFP) that the Bulusan Volcano "spewed ash for a third day" Thursday.

The Phivolcs said there was no such occurrence as shown by their monitoring reports.

Bella Tubianosa, volcanologist on-duty, said the volcano had been silent since it exploded ash late Tuesday afternoon.

Except for 12 high frequency volcanic earthquakes, no other sign of unrest was monitored.

The volcano remained under alert level 1, the Phivolcs bulletin stated.

Meanwhile, Irosin Mayor Lilia Gonzales said some residents of the affected barangays fell ill due to ash inhalation.

The residents were immediately attended to by health workers and they were allowed to go home, the mayor told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Gonzales, however, expressed apprehension on the situation of the Cogon River whose bed had already swelled due to massive siltation. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Market stalls seen as meningo source demolished

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY GOVERNMENT IS demolishing stalls inside the Baguio public market that the Department of Health said were the sources of meningococcemia cases early last year, acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said on Thursday.

The earlier victims of the fatal meningitis strain were traced to have gone to these makeshift stalls selling meat, fish and vegetables in early 2005, Bautista said at a press conference.

"[The stalls, designated as Blocks III and IV] are where meningo started, you see. We need to make sure it doesn't happen again," he told reporters.

In a January 2005 briefing here, former Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the city market was the outbreak's source because of its high human traffic.

The disclosure helped authorities contain the disease, although not after igniting panic over the city's supposed health risks. Tourist arrivals plunged during that period.

But while cases of the fatal meningitis strain are still documented here and in other parts of the country, only one suspected meningococcemia case was traced to the market out of the 27 suspected cases in Baguio as of Oct. 7 this year, according to the DOH Cordillera office.

Bautista said the clearing operation is part of a massive rehabilitation plan, which had taken a year to enforce because the city had been "held hostage" by a development contract owned by the bankrupt Uniwide Sales Corp.

The Uniwide contract had been languishing in court for 19 years, after three city market vendors associations sued to stop its market development lease.

They said the city government crafted a build-operate-and-transfer contract won by Uniwide in 1996, which violated existing public works laws.

Bautista said injunctions imposed by the courts had prevented the city government from repairing damaged market stalls or from regulating vendors as well as the products sold here.

As the case proceeded, Uniwide fell into insolvency, according to records of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But on Oct. 10, Judge Iluminada Cabato asked the city government, the vendors and Uniwide to consider settling their differences out of court.

Bautista said Cabato's request allowed the government to initiate the rescission of the Uniwide contract, so he could act swiftly in bringing down the two rows of dilapidated market stalls.

The Gaw family, which used to own the Uniwide shopping malls, had advised the city government that they intended to engage new investors to start building a supermarket here, Bautista said.

But the city may simply break the contract now that Uniwide's insolvency is public knowledge, he said.

Victor Calimlim, president of one of the groups that sued Uniwide, said vendors were ready to settle their suit. "We really need to fix this market," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Banana plantation workers say they were sacked for organizing

DAVAO CITY—WORKERS OF FRESH BANANA Agricultural Corp. (FBAC) in Compostela Valley are pressing for their reinstatement saying they were unjustly terminated.

FBAC is a partnership between AJMR Holdings and Japanese firm Sumitomo Fruits Corp.

Joel Cuyos, chair of the Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa San Jose (Namasan), said the FBAC management terminated them when they formed a union early this year and started asking for back wages and other benefits.

Cuyos said FBAC was only paying them P153 per day, way below the minimum wage prevailing in Southern Mindanao.

When the management refused to heed their demands, Cuyos said they filed a complaint at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) for underpayment of wages, holiday pay and service incentive leave.

On July 12, Cuyos said the NLRC issued a favorable decision to the workers but FBAC refused to yield.

Allan Apolinar, FBAC operations manager, declined to comment on the issue accusing the media of bias in its reporting of the issue.

The INQUIRER has not made a single report on the controversy prior to this story.

Cuyos said instead of heeding the NLRC's order, FBAC terminated all 109 workers of packing plant 95, who are members of the union.

"The workers decided to formalize their notice of strike on Aug. 18 on the grounds of mass termination, runaway shop, illegal lockout and union busting," Romualdo Basilio, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in Southern Mindanao, said.

Namasan is an affiliate of KMU.

Because of the protest, contract growers of FBAC have filed a temporary restraining order at a court in Compostela Valley. The court ordered the workers to desist from implementing the strike plan.

"We decided to defy it and continued with our strike," Cuyos said.

Cuyos said the growers asked the court to charge them with indirect contempt.

"The FBAC management is doing all they can to break our union" he said.

On Sept. 26, police authorities rounded up some 69 picketing workers and locked them up in the Compostela municipal gymnasium.

Cuyos said they did not only face lack of food and humid condition while at the gymnasium, but they also suffered public humiliation.

A local official took pity of the workers and decided to place them under his custody.

They have since been freed from detention.

"The workers of packing plant 95 are struggling for just wages, security of tenure and a life with dignity. These are basic needs guaranteed under our Constitution and espoused by all institutional churches as prerequisites to building God's Kingdom on Earth," Fr. Benny Bacalso, spokesperson of the Davao-based Church-Labor Solidarity Network, said in a statement to the INQUIRER. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

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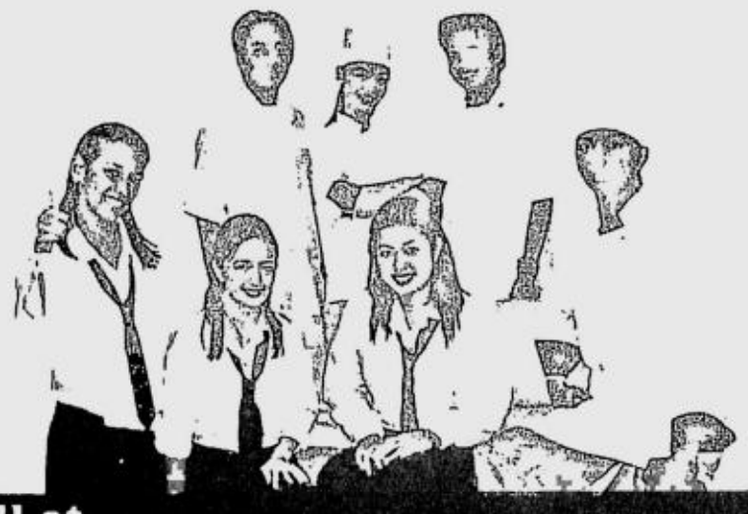

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Alternative to chemical fertilizers emerges

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—A BIOlogical fertilizer named Biogroe, which would help farmers improve crop productivity and decrease fertilizer cost, is expected to reach farmers next year, said Dr. Erlinda S. Paterno, the scientist who led the research on the product.

Paterno said the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (Biotech) of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños was still in the process of completing the requirements of Biogroe to be registered with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority.

These requirements consist of efficacy tests to examine the yield rate and side effects of the fertilizer.

"Unlike many fertilizers, this plant growth promoter is natural because it is based on microorganisms found in the soil," Paterno told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Benefits

She said these microorganisms, or plant growth promoting bacteria (PGPB), are root-associated bacteria that influence root growth by producing plant hormones and provide nutrients in soluble form.

"Biogroe is found to be environment friendly as it helps reduce the use of toxic and environmentally damaging chemical fertilizers and pesticides," she said.

It was formulated in 2004 with the aim of improving the productivity of crops because, apart from the expensive fertilizers, the major problems of farmers are the deficient plants and plant diseases, Paterno added.

In the efficacy test conducted in Tarlac and Cavite, Biogroe was found to enhance the seedling growth and lower the farmers' cost.

Lilia Fernando, a Biotech researcher, said farmers found that after they mixed Biogroe with the seeds, it only took two weeks for the seed to grow, one week earlier from the usual seedling growth.

She said the yield rate during this test increased by 90 percent in *ampalaya* and 40 percent for lettuce.

More roots

The bacteria in Biogroe help the plant to produce more roots so the plant can absorb more water and nutrient from the soil.

"These bacteria also protect the roots from diseases by producing antibodies. Plants become tolerant to diseases that would result in higher crop yield," Fernando explained.

She said this fertilizer only costs P50 per pack of 100 grams.

The farmers who tried using Biogroe only applied half of the recommended fertilizer rate.

"This would mean that farmers could save half from the fertilizer cost," she said.

Paterno said Biogroe is safe and easy to use.

It is packaged as powdered inoculants that can be used for all types of plants such as vegetables, ornamentals, flowering plants, and herbs, she said. *Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Town in Aurora wakes up to reality that resources need to be protected

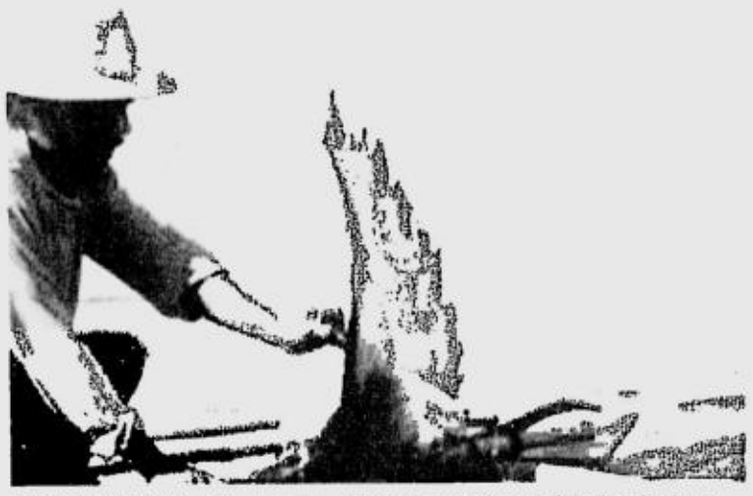
The drive to enforce fishery laws has been effective. Only four cases were reported in all of 2005, mainly illegal fishing and illegal entry

THERE ARE NO lodging houses, no cinemas and the market is all but empty in Dinalungan, Aurora, where the streets are quiet all day.

People get their daily needs from the sea and the forests, but soon they woke up to the reality that nature's bounty was not infinite.

They embraced environment management, a concept they have not heard of before.

Marilyn Marquez, the town's feisty mayor, saw this as the only route for the town to take.



A FISHERMAN in Dinalungan, Aurora, examines a fish that he just caught off the town's waters. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The town's officials and people worked on a comprehensive plan to protect and manage natural resources and made sure it was carried out.

"It had gotten so difficult to catch fish," she said. "Now there's more, and supply is constant."

It took years of determined and collective effort to get things done. Marquez needed a lot of help, and she found it in her staff and Dinalungan's concerned citizens who took up the challenge. Environment-oriented government agencies and private organizations showed them the way.

Among the first to answer the call was Antonio "Master" Sinfuego, now an officer of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Council, who recalls that their campaign against illegal fishing started in 1995 with help from the municipal agriculturist's office.

Opening minds

They organized fishermen and "opened their minds to new learnings." He helped start a sea patrol team with the town's Samahang Mandaragat.

Sinfuego said a major breakthrough came when Marquez discovered USAID's Philippine Environmental Governance (EcoGov) Project while attending a seminar in Baler. She immediately asked the EcoGov people to help Dinalungan, and they responded with technical assistance which Sinfuego described as "more valuable than financial help."

This came in the form of consultations and training seminars leading to the formulation of a Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Plan and enabling ordinances. This was followed by workshops to guide implementation, and draw up an information and communication campaign to raise public consciousness on the need to protect the town's marine resources.

The people of Dinalungan have every reason to be motivated. Their coastal waters are home to a rich variety of marine life, including *dugongs* (sea cows) and *butandings* (whale sharks).

Bangus (milkfish) fry is plentiful and is a regular source of income for coastal residents who sell what they gather to *bangus* growers from Dagupan. Massive mangrove trees, including one that is a century-old, are a source of local pride.

While Dinalungan was not the first LGU to have a CRM Plan in Aurora, it was ahead in implementation. Formal EcoGov assistance started in June 2003.

After barangay-level consultations with fishermen and other community members, the CRM Plan was formulated. It was designed to address environmental, socioeconomic and institutional problems, and issues and concerns that affect the coastal resources of the municipality.

Two concerns

The CRM Plan had a twin focus—fishery law enforcement and Marine Protected Area (MPA) management. The town's first MPA was the Mabudo Marine Sanctuary which was established a year earlier, covering 38 hectares plus a 12-hectare buffer zone.

A second MPA was established in 2004—the Ditangol Marine Sanctuary which covered 20 hectares in Barangays Ditawini and Abuleg. The MPAs have been legitimized, with implementing ordinances enacted.

Dinalungan employed effective strategies to protect and regulate fisheries in order to restore it to its previous abundant state. These include registration of fishermen and boats, permit systems for boat and gears, and a tough enforcement policy.

To facilitate the process, a one-stop shop where all documentation is handled and finalized was put in place, making it easier for fishermen to comply.

Strictly enforced are ordinances banning blast fishing and the use of cyanide, fines for unregistered boats and fishing gear, and a 15-km limit for commercial fishing.

Violators are warned the first time, then sent to the police and fined for succeeding offenses. Barangay fish wardens organize patrols, with the help of village watchmen, in the municipal waters. They are deputized to make arrests. Sea patrol teams take charge of protecting marine sanctuaries.

Marquez sometimes joins the patrols and at one time led the arrest of illegal fishermen.

(Editor's note: The article was contributed by the staff of USAID's EcoGov project)

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'White Revolution' keeps faith with RP milk industry

From page A1

farmers little option but to become self-sufficient.

Roy is president and CEO of Total Rural Development (TRD), a village-based dairy industry project that started operations in 2004.

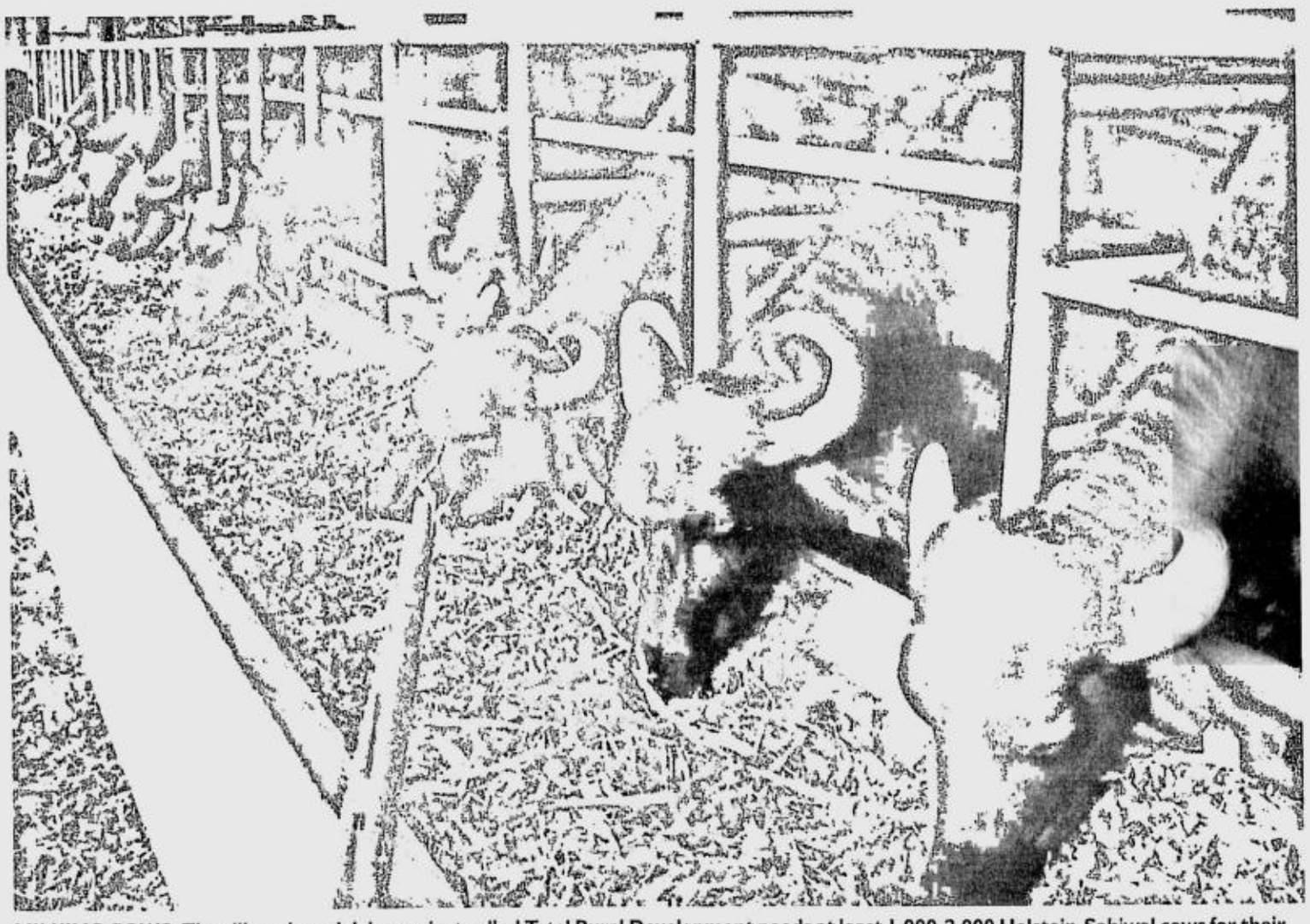
The dairy farm sits on a 15-hectare pasture in Palanginan, Iba, Zambales, surrounded by some 50 households. Family members work in the farm. Some grow forage while others process, package and plow. The women make pastillas and sell milk.

Zambales has a sloping, hilly terrain which is perfect for grazing. The province has a historical reputation for a vibrant cattle industry. In fact, the women of Zambales are excellent pastillas-makers. However, massive emigration has almost put an end to the industry.

Currently, TRD pastures 70 Holstein-Sahiwal dairy cows and 30 carabaos. It is inching its way into the dairy zone map that includes Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Calauan, Laguna; Talavera, Nueva Ecija; Lipa, Batangas; as well as Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Cebu.

The project is up, but not quite running. It is saddled with numerous problems, primarily the insufficient supply of milk. But the TRD staff has aggressively worked out marketing campaigns and has invited private investors, particularly overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), to put in funds.

Roy says: "We want to develop a strong rural economy so we could eventually eradicate poverty. Strong government assistance is vital to the project's success."



MILKING COWS: The village-based dairy project called Total Rural Development needs at least 1,000-2,000 Holstein-Sahiwal cows for their high-milk yield and adaptability to sustain its "White Revolution." It only has 70 cows (and 30 carabaos) at present. MAITA ARREOLA/CONTRIBUTOR

Thai way

The TRD staff, it seems, is inspired by the farmers of Chombung Ratchaburi province (located southwest of Bangkok) in Thailand.

A farmer in Chombung raises 120 dairy cows, produces 500 liters of milk every day and earns 10,000 baht (P13,300). He provides food on the table, sends his children to good schools and can afford to change cars every two years.

Chombung is a successful rural economy made possible by the collaboration of the Thai government and the farmers.

The Thai government strongly supports the Chombung farmers. The King allocated 8 billion baht (P10.6 billion) for the milk industry and initiated nationwide milk-feeding programs. He also created facilities and established ready markets for milk.

The Thai socio-geography is not so different from the Philippines, but sadly, not when it comes to governance.

Emma Sandrino, the executive director of Foundation for a Sustainable Society Inc. (FSSI) firms up the Chombung observation.

Partner organizations

"[In the Philippines], the farmer has no cash on hand and is left on his own to prosper. If he makes a loan and his cattle dies, he still has to pay off his debt. It's very different in Thailand. They have facilities to process milk and its by-products. Their king is so focused on helping his people. Their government really looked at the dairy industry on a serious scale despite the fact that they are not a cheese-eating country," Sandrino says.

Roy and Sandrino have big plans for TRD, applying the same principles which had made the Chombung model a success.

"TRD is not an isolated project. It is a model that can be replicated in some places. We need government support for us to move forward, to be competitive, to become a full-blown industry. We need government help for us to succeed." Roy says.

The project's partner organizations—the ABS-CBN Foundation, FSSI and the office of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.—have agreed to back them up.

Major concern

The project's major concern really is the fate of the children of Zambales.

Roy says they could have ventured into other things. But a nation with 50 percent of its population made up of children and youth in various stages of malnutrition is quite alarming. Zambales itself has the highest malnutrition rate in Central Luzon, he says.

Roy has started a movement he calls the "White Revolution" or quite simply, the belief in milk as a basic food that supplies nutrients and the calcium needs of the body. He believes the backbone of a strong republic is a healthy population.

But there's not enough milk to sustain TRD's current operations.

The mini-processing plant, said to cost P2 million, has not even met its required capacity of 300 liters per hour. The farm only gets from 7.8 to 14 liters per cow every day, or collectively 50-60 liters (often 100 liters) of milk on a regular run.

TRD also needs to increase its number of milking cows, from 1,000 to 2,000 Holstein-Sahiwal. The cows, which are raised in New Zealand and Australia, cost P80,000 each. Unfortunately, there's not enough cash in TRD's coffers.

The Holstein-Sahiwal cows were initially imported to start their breeding farm.

Also in its shopping list are cooling and chilling tanks, a fat separator, a refrigerated van, buckets, containers and a storage room.

Pleasant problem

When the demand for milk is high, TRD runs to the National Dairy Authority (NDA)-assisted areas around Zambales: Bulawan, Palauig; Nagbayan, Castillejos, and Sto. Niño, Candelaria.

TRD's biggest milk contributor used to be the Sto. Niño farm, which poured in 100 liters of milk, until it got its own processing plant. It has since stopped contributing milk to TRD.

Even the consortium of milk producers cannot handle the huge market demand for milk, specifically from Metro Manila. The coffee shops alone have the biggest requirement, with a fraction composed of health buffs. From all angles, the uneven demand-supply ratio is still good news for TRD staff.

When Roy gets text messages from clients requesting a delivery of milk, he is delighted.

He describes perennial milk insufficiency as a "pleasantly problematic" situation, something that motivates TRD.

Ironically, the shortage of milk gives consumers a chance to buy imported milk.

"We badly need to break the importation curve to empower our farmers," Roy says.

Real picture

FSSI has warned Roy that a few dairy cows in the farm will not allow TRD to meet the milk-processing requirement, resulting in its under-utilization.

Nevertheless, FSSI has agreed to grant TRD a loan.

"We recognize the risks, but without any support, TRD will continue processing milk the crude way. That is something we are uncomfortable with, knowing we could do something. We also saw that Roy had the expertise to mobilize the project. We believe it could succeed," Sandrino says.

There are times when TRD is viewed as an ambitious project. Roy says he doesn't mind getting comments like this.

When the local government of Zambales showed it was not too keen on TRD's goings-on, Roy crossed his fingers, hopeful the sentiment would change. After all, it is the locals who would benefit from the setup, he says.

Universal man

Certainly, this father of two teenage boys, this yoga practitioner and passionate lover of all things natural, means business.

"Our dream is to make Zambales a breeding farm of 10,000 dairy cows. We want to make the farmers rich not only through planting palay once a year, but also through dairy farming. The cash part comes in every day each time the cows are milked," Roy says.

Determination and collaboration are essential for TRD to take off. Roy has given himself a three-year deadline (from conceptualization) to hit the mark.

Never mind if he sounds like a prayer man of the faithful each time he pleads for assistance. What matters most is that the government helps solve half the problem.

After all, everyone drinks milk.

RP world center of marine treasures

From page A1

"You really have this international obligation and responsibility to preserve this marine counterpart of the Amazon River basin... If you were to preserve this, the world would benefit as well," Carpenter said.

"But more important than that, you have something here that is a source of national pride," he said.

Regulating shipping

The Amazon River Basin—covering 40 percent of the entire South American continent—is home to the largest rainforest on earth. The Amazon rainforest has more species of plants and animals than any other terrestrial ecosystem, hosting around 30 percent of the world's species.

A single bush in the Amazon may have more species of ants than the entire British Isles, while one hectare of its forest may have more than 480 species of trees.

Speaking before environmentalists and government officials, Carpenter said the Philippines, which recently witnessed one of the worst oil spills that damaged vast marine resources in the Visayas, needed to exert more effort to take better care of its corals.

"The Philippines is in a crossroads. You need to take advantage of that in terms of economic support," Carpenter said.

"I think what you need to do is to be more careful about the sort of shipping that goes through here. One of the proposals is to make the Verde Island passage a particularly sensitive shipping area, an international agreement," he said.

Strict safety standards

The World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines has already proposed the delineation of particularly sensitive shipping areas (PSSA), where stricter maritime safety standards will be imposed on vessels using the route.

A WWF map shows that international and domestic sea lanes overlap with priority marine conservation sites. The National Disaster Coordinating Council, however, has yet to act on the proposal.

Livelihood and heritage

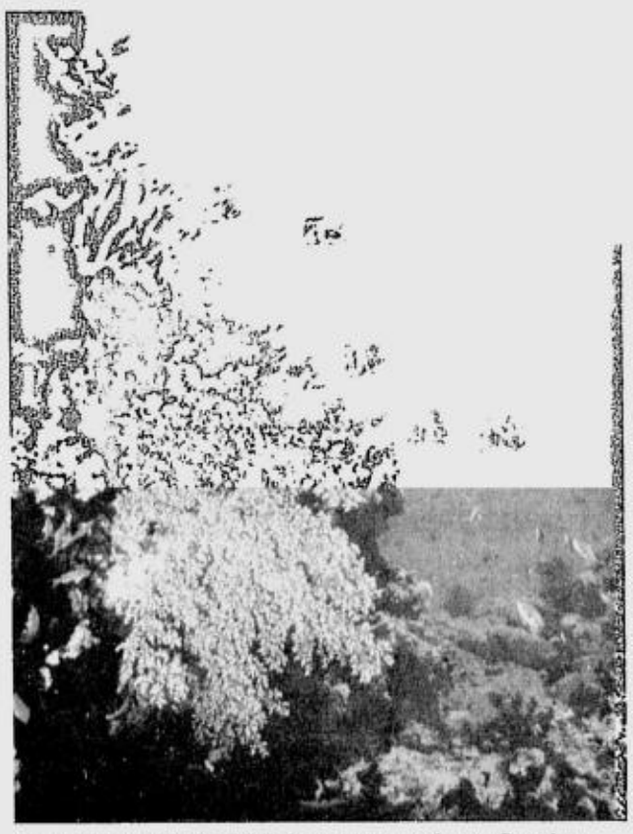
A tripartite partnership of First Philippine Conservation Inc., Conservation International-Philippines and First Gen Corp. started the Verde Island Integrated Conservation and Development Program in 2004 to eliminate destructive activities in the sea and promote the area as a prime tourist destination.

Carpenter said the Philippines needed to strictly enforce the laws and heed the suggestions and recommendations of environmental experts to protect its marine life.

"You have some of the best marine scientists in the world here. You have over 400 marine parks. You have people that support you. Somehow, you just need to get the enforcement there," he said.

He said that despite bans on illegal fishing, he was aware that this illegal activity was still going on in several places in the Philippines, which has nearly 900 coastal municipalities.

"You have to increase your efforts to come to a sort of balance between livelihood and preserving your natural heritage," Carpenter said.



UNDERWATER GARDEN grows a coral tree Gorgian, one of several beauties, found lining the walls and reefs of Verde Island. YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Palace ...

From page A1

Asia, Ermita noted that " we are not as rich as America."

Ermita said the Palace was eagerly awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court on the legality of the people's initiative as a mode of changing the Constitution.

Enough time

With the high court expected to hand down its decision possibly the middle of next month, Ermita said the government would have enough time to hold a plebiscite on Charter change, considering that the last day of filing for candidacy would be Jan. 15 next year.

"The Commission on Elections can have between 60 and 90 days to prepare for a plebiscite after the decision," Ermita said.

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Late Sports

Realtors, Giants triumph

By Musong R. Castillo

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs. San Miguel
6:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs. Red Bull

ALFRANCIS CHUA KNOWS EXactly what to expect at this point of the tournament.

While his Sta. Lucia Realtors have kept on roaring past their PBA foes, he knows his job is bound to get harder as the Philippine Cup wears on.

"I'm not excited (that we're undefeated) or scared that we will peak early," said Chua, moments after a 98-92 win over Alaska last night put him in the company of powerhouse Barangay Ginebra at the top of the elimination round heap with 3-0 cards.

"What I want is for my players to maintain the form that they have now," he added.

The Realtors have not started this hot since 1998, when Derrick Pumaren steered them to a 4-0 start. And while the players maybe unfamiliar with that, Chua has had several of those starts—even hotter—when he was calling the shots for the disbanded Tanduay Rhum Masters.

WILLIAMS

"This (start) does not tell us anything," Chua said.

Kelly Williams, the top overall pick in the draft, has been playing his savior's role to the hilt, hitting five crucial points inside the final three minutes that helped fuel the Realtors' scorching closing run which eventually dealt the Aces their third loss in four outings.

Defending champion Purefoods finally won one, but not after almost blowing a 29-point lead and hanging on to a 103-101 conquest of the courageous Air21 Express in the nightcap.

"In the end, you sometimes have to count your blessings," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "I believe we're back, though we're still far from the shape we want to be in."

The Express, who remained winless in three games, had a shot at winning it all until a three-pointer that looked dead center for Arwind Santos went just long.

Purefoods improved to 1-2.

The Aces sorely missed starting point guard Mike Cortez in the second half because of a hyper-extended left knee.

Cortez fell hard on his left foot after driving off Marlou Aquino in the second period.

Meanwhile, Ginebra tries to grab the solo lead when it faces an acid test in Red Bull at the Araneta Coliseum today.

The 4:05 p.m. opener pits San Miguel Beer against Welcoat.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 98—Espino 22, Cabagnot 16, Williams 15, Omolon 14, Duremdes 12, Gonzales 9, Bughao 3, Mendoza 3, Isip 2, Aquino 2, Catli 0.

ALASKA 92—Miller 21, Belasco 17, Thoss 16, Dela Cruz 12, Cariaso 9, Laure 8, Cortez 4, Juinio 3, Aban 2, Luanzon 0, Franco 0

Quarters: 27-22, 48-46, 72-all, 98-92.

Second Game

PUREFOODS 103—Raymundo 20, Pingris 15, Yee 14, Castillo 11, J. Yap 9, Artadi 8, Simon 8, Limpot 8, Bautista 6, R. Yap 4.

AIR21 101—Y. de Ocampo 19, R. de Ocampo 17, Arboleda 14, Sotto 13, Tubid 12, Santos 9, David 9, Avenido 5, Dimaunahan 3.

Quarters: 29-16, 57-40, 83-65, 103-101

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ROMY HOMILLADA

Little big bookstore on Padre Faura

More than 40 years later, Solidaridad remains a favorite haunt of bibliophiles, young writers

By Tina G. Santos

FLANKED BY RESTAURANTS ON Padre Faura Street in Ermita, Manila, Solidaridad has survived despite competition from giant bookstore chains and fancy bookshops.

For more than four decades now, the quaint store owned by one of the country's best and internationally renowned novelists, Francisco Sionil Jose, has been the favorite haunt of serious bibliophiles, young writers and lovers of the written word.

The store got its name from the fortnightly journal "La Solidaridad," mouthpiece of leading Filipino nationalists in the 19th century when the Philippines was under Spain.

One of a kind

Through the years, Solidaridad has gained a reputation as a one of a kind bookstore, a source of rare and stimulating reading materials for true-blue book lovers.

"Our bookshop is highly specialized. We have the most number of Filipino books in town. That's our strength," the 81-year-old Jose, a National Artist for Literature and Ramon Magsaysay Award winner, said proudly.

He added that Solidaridad also carries foreign titles in fiction, poetry and other subjects like humanities, philosophy, history and political theory.

Jose said he painstakingly scrutinizes each and every book they sell. "There is no single book in the shop that has not passed through me," he said. "Since we have a small space, our books are carefully selected. We normally do not carry bestsellers, children's books or those that are popular with young people. I make sure that the books we sell are interesting, are important to us or have a permanent value."

The writer said he and his wife Teresita founded the bookshop in the 1960s, shortly after he returned from Sri Lanka where he was information officer of the Colombo Plan Bureau.

Not in the original plan

But a bookshop wasn't the business he originally had in mind. "I came back with some savings and I wanted to put up a magazine, as well as a publishing house to support my family," he said. When his father-in-law heard of his plan, the family-owned property was offered to him.

"This used to be a big house, so my wife suggested that part of it be turned into a bookshop," he said.

Starting with only a few books, Jose said they got supplies from more established bookshops then, like the old Popular Bookstore on Doroteo Jose and National Bookstore that had its first branch on Rizal Avenue. Eventually, they would import their own books.

Jose said his wife was hands-on in running the business. As soon as they were old enough, their seven children helped them with the budding enterprise by working as sales people, janitors, cashiers and proofreaders.

The bookshop was inaugurated by former Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo whose book, "Identity and Change," was the first to be printed by the Solidaridad publishing house.

Other works of literary significance that it published in those early years were "Equinox I," an anthology of new English writing by Filipinos (1965); and the "Asian PEN Anthology I" (1966), both edited by Jose.

Solidaridad's flagship publication, however, was Solidarity, a magazine the prolific author started in 1966.

Although Solidarity could never approximate the stature and dedication to the Filipino cause of Marcelo H. del Pilar and his colleagues who published the old Solidaridad, in a modest way it became a vehicle of protest against well-entrenched individuals and institutions, said Jose.

The magazine, which carried the works of budding and established writers, statesmen, politicians, historians, businessmen and laymen both here and abroad, ceased publication in the early 1990s.

Money-maker

Jose had hoped the publishing house would give him financial stability. But it was the bookshop that made "a little bit of money for us."

"I had the wonderful idea of being a successful magazine and book publisher, apart from being a writer. Big mistake," he said with a laugh. "Maybe if you're into textbook publishing, and I'm not. You can't make a living from selling books; commercial bookstores nowadays sell a lot of other items, like school supplies, stationery, other stuff," he said. Had they not owned the property, they would have closed shop a long time ago, he added.

Jose said he would have been the first to own a chain of bookstores had he followed a friend's advice to put up branches in other parts of Metro Manila.

"I had a very good friend who belonged to a wealthy family. He urged me to expand my business. He said he was willing to help me financially. But then I asked myself whether I wanted to be a wealthy bookseller or a wealthy novelist. I chose the latter," he said, laughing.

Quality books

Jose said the family decided to stick to Solidaridad's unique character of showcasing "quality books."

As for the publishing house, while it still accepts printing jobs once in a while, its main responsibility now is to publish Jose's works, according to his wife.

The literary master proudly declared Solidaridad had set many firsts, including being the first air-conditioned bookshop and the first to use piped-in music.

Unlike today's bookstores, it is simple. Solidaridad has large windowpanes without the promo posters and window displays found in most shops.

Inside, everything is clean and organized, books neatly lined in austere wooden shelves.

Most of Jose's books are displayed on the counter shelf, among them "Po-on," "My Brother, My Executioner," "The Pretenders," as well as translations of his novels in other languages. On the second floor is Jose's small office. People from all walks of life drop in and Jose is always ready with stories about himself and the country.

The shop may indeed be, according to Jose's description, "just a small business," but for its many devotees, it will always be a little treasure trove of culture and heritage.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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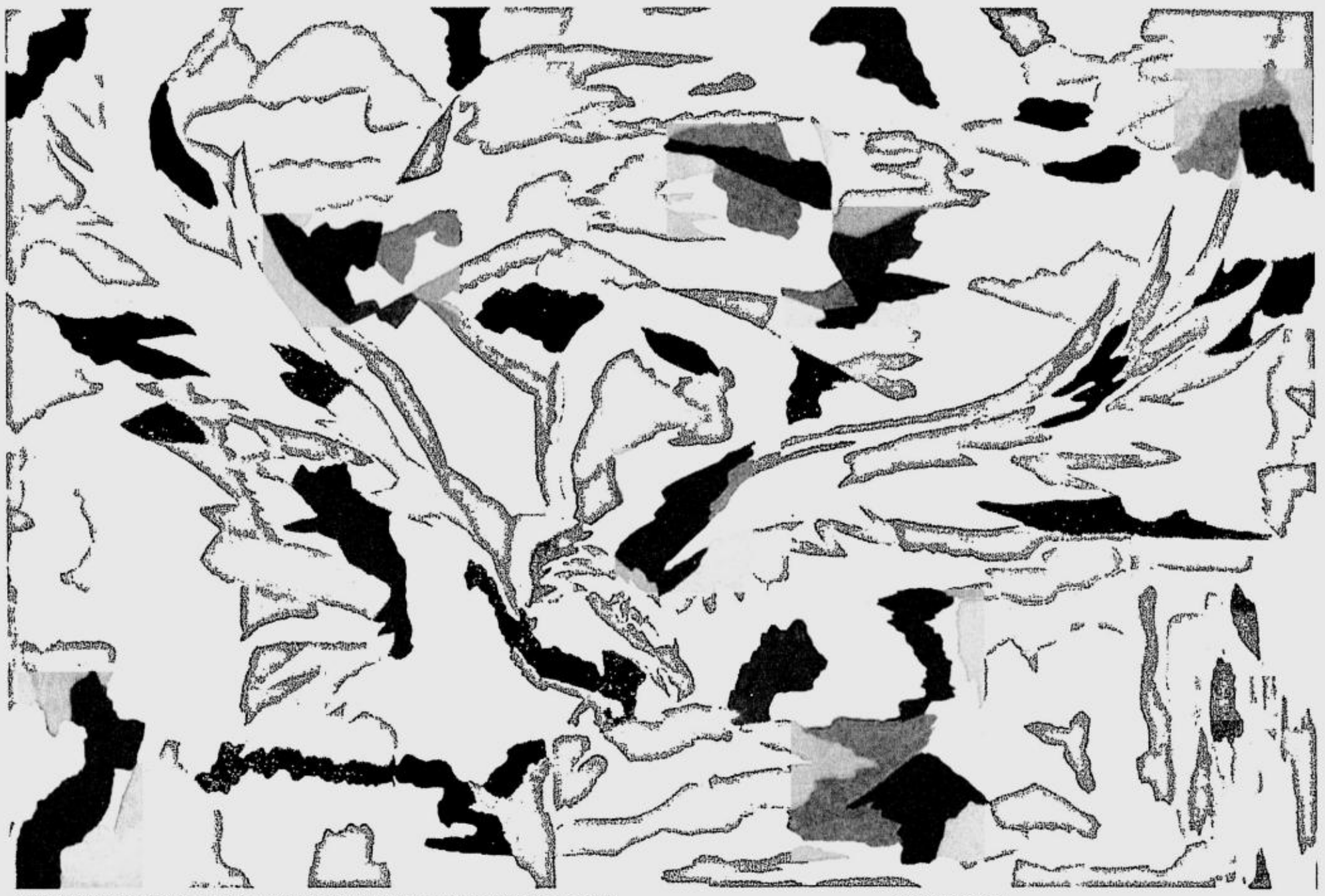
This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.



"FREEDOM FLIGHT:" A colorful, semi-abstract expression of the artist's daring spirit.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

'When I started to paint, I started to feel better,' says this Filipino in Australia who now has four solo exhibits to her name

Coping with job stress uncovered her real gift

IVABELLE BERNABE: Reinventing herself

By Miko L. Morelos

SINCE SHE AND HER FAMILY MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA IN 1988, Ivabelle Bernabe has taken various clerical jobs to make ends meet and put her kids through school.

"I had to take any job that was available because we were starting out there," retells Ivabelle, 47, who studied agriculture at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City. Her degree did not land her a job in a hi-tech Australian farm. Her first job was working at the front office of a hotel.

She would move from one company to another until she landed her current job as an administrative assistant in Telstra, Australia's largest telecommunications firm.

After almost 10 years of struggle, however, Ivabelle felt her health deteriorating, though she could not pinpoint the cause.

Her muscles ached constantly. Her body became heavy. She could not even explain exactly what she was feeling. She could barely drag herself to work.

"I consulted a doctor but he couldn't explain what it was," she recalls.

"Eventually, he just concluded that my ailment could be stress-related."

"A SOLDIER'S Dream" was exhibited in Australia and Germany.

The gift

In 2002, Ivabelle literally woke up, grabbed a brush and started to paint. She painted every room in the house. She painted big art pieces.

She began to feel better. "Eventually, I noticed that I no longer felt the body pains."

It was then that she discovered she had a gift. And this gift turned out to be her cure.

"I considered painting as my therapy," she recalls. "Then, I showed my work to friends and they said [the paintings were] good."

Encouraged, Ivabelle sought professional opinion. She made an appointment with an art gallery in Brisbane to show her works.

"The gallery curator was impressed," she says. "They decided to include my works in an exhibition as soon as possible. It started from there."

Now four years later, Ivabelle has four solo exhibitions to her name, both in Australia and Europe.

Her first solo exhibit was at Logan Art Gallery in Queensland in 2004. She then got invited to display her works in Europe the following year. Her first European exhibit was held in Rome, Italy at the "Il Colori dal Mondo ... dell' Arte Giovane" from May to June 2005.

In August that same year, she exhibited her paintings at the Ramstein American Air Base in Kaiserslautern, Germany. It was called "Personal Journey." Another exhibit, titled "Beyond Colours," was sponsored by the American-German-Filipino Charity Foundation at the Ramada Hotel in Trier City.

Her latest exhibit, dubbed "From Inside Out," was held in June this year at the Hogan Gallery in Melbourne, the art capital of Australia.

Clueless, original

During her exhibition in Rome, an Italian art connoisseur asked her about her influences.

Ivabelle admitted that she was clueless about art history.

"At first, I was embarrassed to admit this to people," she says. "I have never attended art courses." In her school days, her only artistic vent was choreographing for her school's dance troupe. She also used to sing in a band.

But the Italian art patron had smiled at her response: "No wonder, yours [her art works] are original. You don't study other painters' works; that's why you have your own [style]. You have set your identity."

Color her world

Using acrylic as her medium, Ivabelle paints abstract and semi-abstract images. She says the images she paints are based on her emotions.

"My [black-and-white paintings] come 'from the inside,'" she adds. "It's more like unloading my emotions onto the canvas."

In her painting, "A Soldier's Dream," the image of a mother and child is superimposed on the face of a soldier.

Ivabelle also gets her subjects from her friends' experiences.

"My friends talk to me about their problems and that's what I use as material for my paintings," she says. "I absorb their stories, process it and let my feelings out through painting."

On the other hand, the paintings in vivid colors are for relaxation, Ivabelle says. "They'll make you feel good, feel happy, compared to my black and white paintings which are my emotions put in canvas."

Today, Ivabelle still keeps her day job at Telstra.

But painting is her refuge. "Painting serves as my escape from 'the world,'" she says. "Whenever I want to unwind, I grab my brush, go to my canvas and start painting. After finishing a piece, I feel relieved."

Earn extra through networking system

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

MANY FAMILIES OF OFWS ARE eager to earn additional income through sideline businesses. A favorite system is "networking." This is not actually a business. "Networking" is a type of distribution system for selling a product or service.

Given a good product that is in high demand and at a price that allows for substantial sales commissions, those who join a legitimate network (called networkers) can actually make very good money. It usually entails convincing your relatives and friends to make an investment to sell the same product—with each of you earning a commission at different levels.

The rewards can be awesome if you find highly motivated and capable people to join your network.

Unfortunately, there have been many networking opportunities that turned out to be scams. This happens when there is no serious product being sold, and what is offered is really just to make money from recruiting members and sharing in their membership or joining fees.

Unscrupulous companies convince people that by simply joining their network, easy returns can be made. What is not explained is that networkers who make a lot of money are usually very hardworking and spend a great deal of time making sure that their entire organization is properly motivated, providing exemplary customer service and receiving the money due them. In other words, there are no miracles. A networker can only make good money if he is capable of building and sustaining his own organization through intensive sales management and continuous recruitment of new agents.

When invited to join a network, ask yourself the following questions before you make a decision:

- Will I make good extra income by selling the products?
- Is the company that is offering the product a legitimate one?
- Is the product worth the time and effort I must exert to earn extra income?
- Will I have the time and the talent to make this happen?
- Is the product something that will benefit a person and is it legitimately priced?
- Is there a transaction? Is there a document or contract outlining the details of the transaction that you can understand?
- Is there an actual cash outlay? Do you need to pay a certain amount before you can be a party to the transaction?
- Is the money being "pooled?" When the money goes into the business, is it kept in the business for the business?
- Is a third party managing the pool of money?
- Is the promised reward or profit attainable?

I could name some valid networking businesses. However, that would be advertising through this article. On the same note, I cannot name networking businesses that are questionable. When you find a product that is interesting and something you believe you want to use or sell, it is important that you carefully listen to the presentation and answer the questions enumerated above. If anything is missing, it might be safer to stay away.

FRANCISCO J. Colayco is an entrepreneur, a venture developer and financial advisor. He is the chair of the Colayco Foundation for Education and the author of three best-sellers: Wealth Within Your Reach (2004 Book of the Year for Business and Economics Awardee), Making Your Money Work, and Pera Palaguin Workbook. He is a member of the Registered Financial Planners Inc. USA and is available for talks, seminars, and workshops. Learn more about his advocacy on www.colaycofoundation.com or e-mail info@colaycofoundation.com. The books are available at National Bookstores, PowerBooks, 0917-8537333, 02-6314446.

Republican solon pleads guilty in corruption case

WASHINGTON—A REPUBLICAN Congressman pleaded guilty on Friday in the Jack Abramoff political corruption investigation, becoming the first lawmaker convicted in an election-year scandal that has reached into Congress and the Bush administration.

NEY REUTERS

Rep. Bob Ney of Ohio admitted he had illegally accepted trips, meals, drinks, tickets to concerts and sporting events and other items worth tens of thousands of dollars in return for official acts performed on behalf of the lobbyist Abramoff and his clients.

Ney, who abandoned his re-election race in August as the US Justice Department investigated his links to the convicted Abramoff, said he was ashamed of the way his public service career was ending and will resign from Congress in the next few weeks.

But with the election less than a month away and with Democrats increasingly optimistic about winning control of the US Congress, the White House and House Republican leaders urged Ney to step down immediately.

"What Congressman Ney did was not a reflection of the Republican Party. It was a reflection of Congressman Ney and he ought to step down," White House spokesperson Tony Snow said.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois and other Republican House leaders said they will move to expel Ney immediately as the first order of business when Congress resumes its legislative work in November, if Ney has not resigned.

"Bob Ney must be punished for the criminal actions he has acknowledged," they said in a statement. "He betrayed his oath of office and violated the trust of those he represented in the House. There is no place for him in this Congress." Appearing at a federal court a few blocks from the Capitol, Ney stood before the judge during the 30-minute hearing and said, "I plead guilty your honor." He gave brief answers to the judge's questions and said he has been in an alcohol treatment program during the past month.

In a statement issued after the hearing, Ney said, "I have made mistakes of judgment and acted in ways that I am not proud of." The Abramoff scandal and the scandal involving lewd computer messages sent by disgraced former Rep. Mark Foley to young male congressional aides have hurt Republicans as they seek to keep control of the US Congress in the Nov. 7 elections. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Shining Path leader gets life

LIMA—The founder of Peru's Shining Path rebel group, Abimael Guzman, was sentenced to life in prison late Friday in a re-trial for terrorism, murder and other crimes during a 20-year war that killed 70,000 people. Guzman, a former university professor, now 72, reacted little as the sentence was delivered, as did the rest of the radical Maoist rebel leaders on trial. His girlfriend and comrade, Elena Iparraguirre, was also sentenced to life. The 11 Shining Path leaders on trial with him received sentences of 24 to 35 years. *AFP*

Mole foiled bomb plot

TORONTO—A young Canadian of Egyptian origin acted as a mole to help authorities unravel an alleged al Qaida-inspired plot to bomb buildings in downtown Toronto, CBC television said on Friday. CBC said the young agricultural engineer was now part of a witness protection program. CBC said the man, who is in his 20s, had helped police because he wanted to prevent a "civilian calamity." *Reuters*

7 decapitated in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—At least 12 people were killed in violence around Iraq on Saturday, while authorities found the decapitated corpses of seven people dumped north of Baghdad in what appeared to be a sectarian revenge killing. The bodies were found in an orchard in the city of Duluiyah late Friday. Three were from among a group of 17 construction workers kidnapped Thursday while traveling home to the predominantly Shiite town of Balad, police said. The corpses of the other 14 workers were found earlier Friday, also all beheaded. *AP*

Guantanamo abuse probed

WASHINGTON—A senior US commander Friday ordered an investigation into allegations brought by a Marine paralegal of abuse of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the military said Friday. General John "Bantz" Craddock, head of the US Southern Command, appointed an army colonel to head the formal investigation into the allegations, the command said. *AFP*

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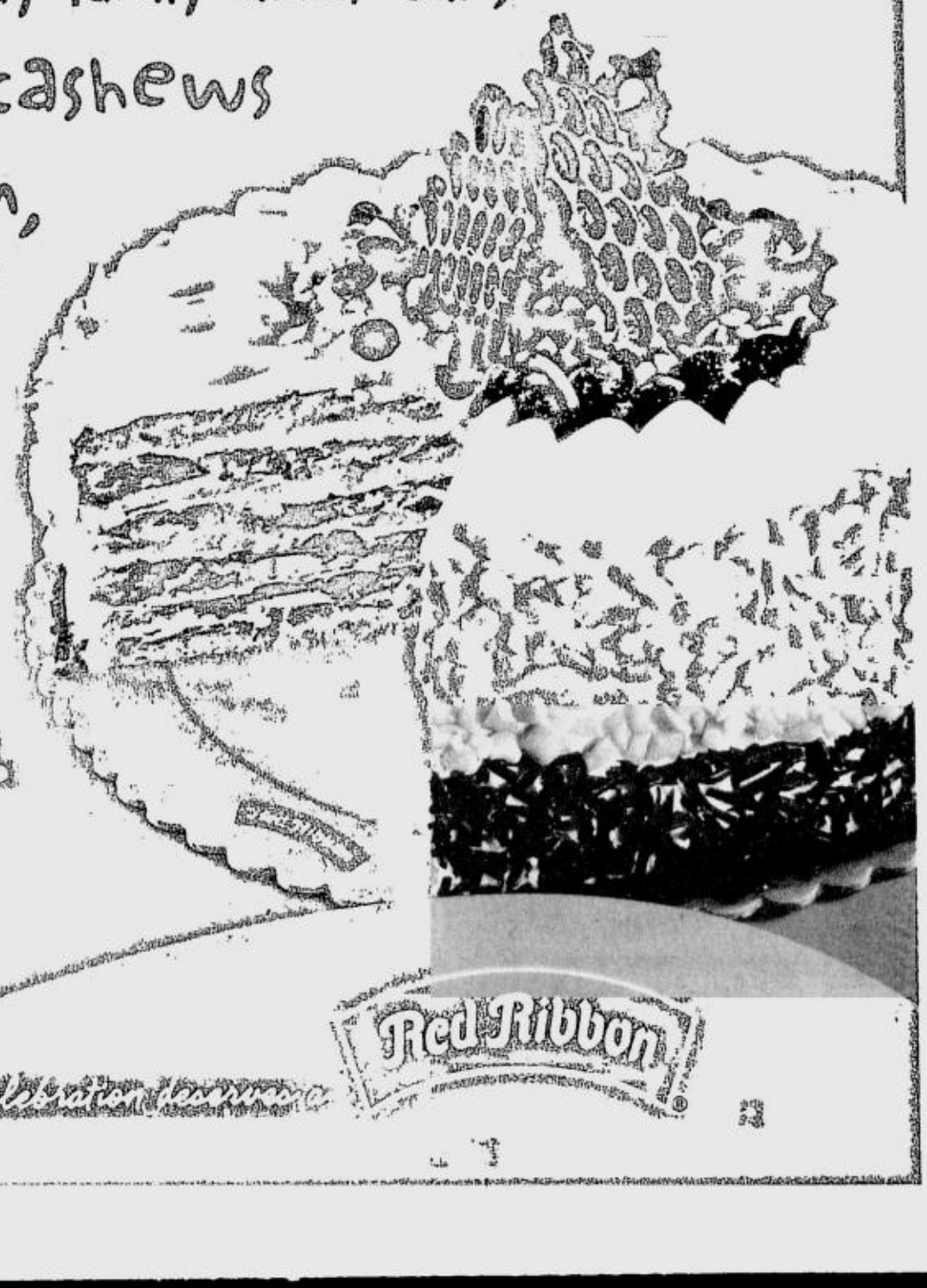

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Russia, China delay UN vote on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS—THE UNITED STATES WAS scrambling Saturday to hammer out a consensus to impose sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear test, still hoping for a UN Security Council vote later in the day.

China and Russia raised last-minute objections to the latest US proposals, scuppering Washington's bid to get the Council to decide by Friday to punish the North after it said it had successfully tested an atom bomb.

The Council's five permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—were set to meet along with Japan on Saturday morning in New York before the entire 15-nation Council re-convened.

Any vote could be delayed as the United States waited to hear what new instructions had come from Moscow and Beijing, traditional allies of North Korea that generally oppose the use of international sanctions.

The United States had already abandoned a blanket arms embargo on North Korea in an earlier draft resolution and given up the possibility that the final Council resolution would allow the use of military force.

"I thought we had agreed to go to a vote (Saturday) morning," said the US Ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton. "The vast majority of members want to vote as soon as possible." The latest US draft demands the elimination of all North Korean nuclear weapons as well as any weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, and provides for a travel ban on officials who work on such programs.

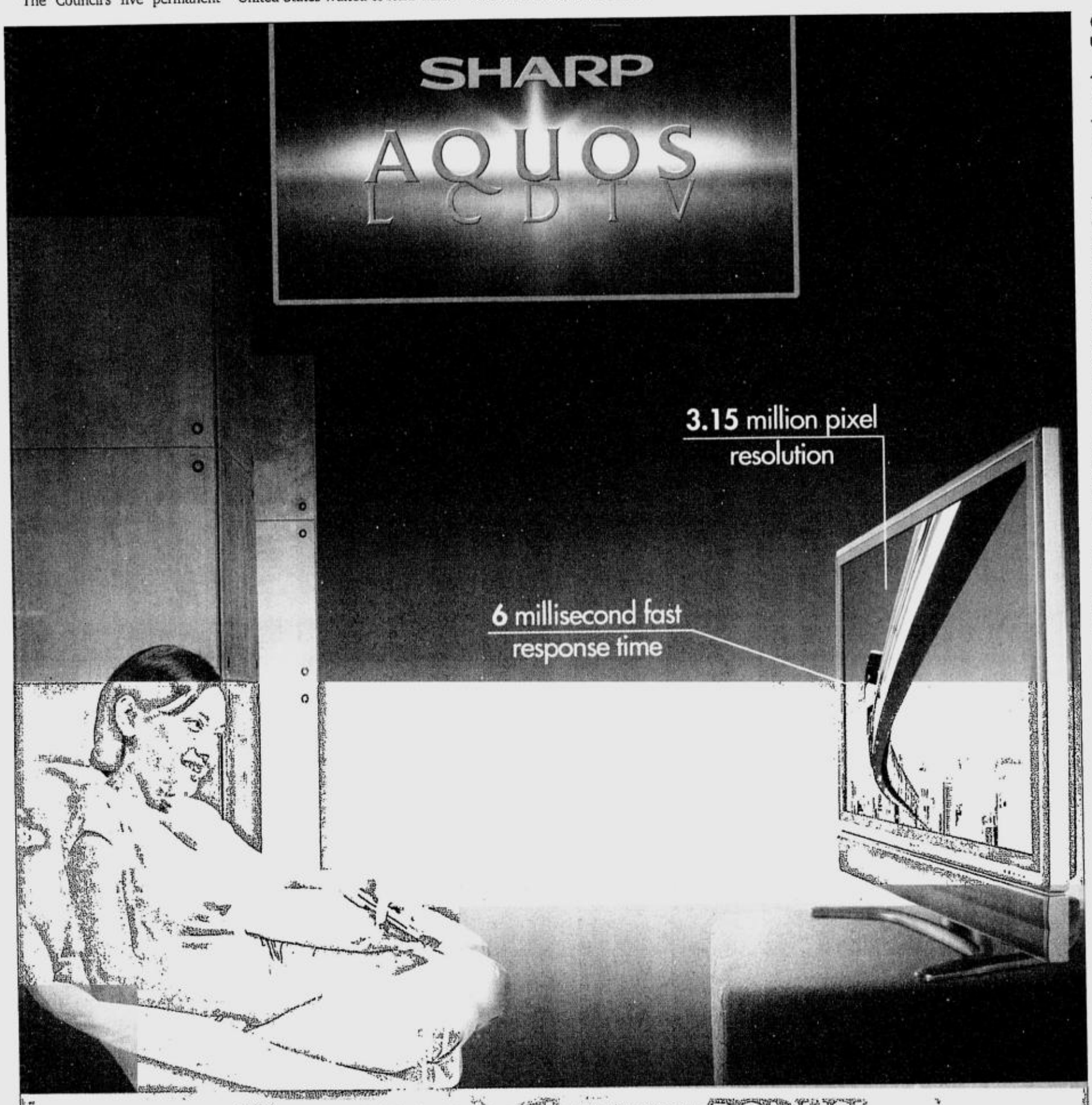
It calls for a ban targeting missiles, tanks, large artillery systems, warships and combat aircraft, as well as for inspection of cargo to and from North Korea to prevent any illegal trafficking.

In addition to an array of financial and other sanctions, it also calls on Pyongyang to return "without precondition" to the six-nation talks on its nuclear programs that it has boycotted for nearly a year.

China's UN ambassador Wang Guangya was non-committal when asked if the Council would vote Saturday, while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US draft "contains elements that should be discussed and clarified." Still, there appeared to be no doubt that some form of sanctions was on the way, and officials said US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would go to China, Japan and South Korea next week to discuss how to implement them.

"I think the key part of her trip will be to make sure that the resolution when passed will really have teeth to it and really function properly," said Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian affairs Christopher Hill.

Hill, who has been the lead US negotiator in the six-way talks, said the United States was in "considerable, extensive discussions already with partners in anticipation" of the resolution's adoption. *AFP*



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South Korean takes over top UN post in Jan.

BAN REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS—South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon was unanimously chosen Friday to lead the United Nations for the next five years and accepted the position saying the world body needs to promise less and deliver more.

The 62-year-old career diplomat will take over from Ghanaian chief Kofi Annan in January and will become the world body's eighth secretary general and the first Asian UN chief since U Thant of Burma led the organization from 1961 to 1971.

"I am deeply honored to become the second Asian to lead the organization," Ban told the General Assembly after his nomination.

Ban, a mild-mannered figure, has played key roles both as South Korea's foreign minister and earlier as Seoul's ambassador to the United Nations in trying to resolve the long-standing North Korean nuclear crisis.

He outlined fighting poverty, HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation and protecting human rights Friday as among the priorities of his tenure along with containing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and combating terrorism.

The European Union and United States led the congratulations, with US ambassador to the UN John Bolton saying: "We believe he is the right person to lead the United Nations at this decisive moment in its history, particularly as the UN struggles to fulfill the terms of the reform agenda that world leaders agreed to last fall." *AFP*

PART of a monolith is seen after an excavation in the archaeological area of the Templo Mayor in Mexico City's main square, Oct. 13. REUTERS

Archeologists discover largest Aztec figure

MEXICO CITY—MEXICAN ARCHEOLOGISTS unveiled the largest Aztec idol ever discovered on Friday and said it could be a door to a hidden chamber at a ruined temple under the heart of Mexico City.

The Aztecs, a warlike and deeply religious people who built numerous monumental works, ruled an empire stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean and encompassing much of modern-day central Mexico.

The 12.4 ton stone slab, 14 m in surface area, was partially uncovered this month at the main Templo Mayor on the edge of the capital's central Zocalo square. Aztecs used the temple for worship and human sacrifice.

Excavators have been astonished by the size of the piece and its elaborate engraving of the earth god Tlaltecuhtli as they uncovered more of the slab in recent days.

Asked on Friday if it was the most important Aztec piece found, anthropologist Alvaro Barrera said: "For its size, yes, for the importance ... we have to wait to see what we discover and its context." When it was discovered, officials said the monolith and an adjacent 15th century altar comprised the most significant Aztec find in decades. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Zoleta** keeps Asian 14-Under net title /A26

Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ **Tigers melt** frost, A's /A28

Bustamante vs Didal for title

DJANGO Bustamante: Big money on sight. RODEL ROTONI

TOURNAMENT FAVORITE Francisco "Django" Bustamante beat Dennis Orcollo, 13-8, late Friday to arrange a titular showdown with early round victim Leonardo Didal last night in the San Miguel Beer Philippine 9-Ball Open at the Casino Filipino Pagcor Theater in Paranaque.

The 43-year-old defending champion pulled away late in the rematch between last year's finalists to stay unbeaten in the event organized by Solar Sports and supported by San Miguel Beer.

Bustamante's expecting a tighter duel.

"He (Orcollo) committed a lot of errors and I pounced on them," said Bustamante in Filipino. "I thought it will be close all the way."

Orcollo, acknowledged Philippines Billiard money game king, complained of a locked arm midway in the match. "I had difficulty breathing in the later stages."

The 38-year-old Didal, meanwhile, cruised to a 13-5 victory over upcoming star Mike Takayama.

Didal, who hails from Davao, won the last eight racks after a 5-all count to secure at least a P250,000 paycheck.

"We were both unlucky on the break," said who failed to win a rack on his first three breaks. "But my pocketing was better."

The 18-year-old Takayama, who impressed pool fans with a stunning run of victories over Gandy Valle, Alex Pagulayan and Orcollo, got the better of Didal on their safety exchanges early on. He led 4-3, through brilliant placing.

But inexperience did him in.

The turning point came on the 14th rack. Trailing 5-6 and with the cue ball on his hand after a Didal scratch, Takayama chose to go for a 2-9 combination.

He missed–badly–and Didal cleaned up to go 2-up. It was the same scene on the 16th when Takayama misplayed a combo.

"*Bata pa kasi kaya hindi pa masyadong nag-iisip*," Didal said. "*Pero hindi magtatagal mahihirapan na akong manalo sa kanya.*"

Didal sealed the deal with a tricky angular pot on the green six with two colored balls covering the cue from the object ball.

The race-to-17 title match is set late last night with the winner going home with P500,000. Orcollo and Takayama pocketed P100,000 each.

Bustamante beat Didal, 9-4, in the fourth round on the winner's bracket, but Didal edged Ronato Alcano, 9-8, to enter the semis. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Pinoys top world pool tour

ASIANS, PARTICULARLY FILIPINOS, ARE lording it over in the professional billiards tour. Both in terms of titles and money winnings.

Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) president Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo said this was according to the October 2006 issue of the Billiards Digest, the Chicago-based No. 1 American billiards magazine. The report stated that Asians, particularly the Filipinos, dominated the International Pool arena in the last 19 months, both in pro tour titles and first-place prize money.

"From the statistics, it showed our tremendous progress and development as we can see that 14 titles out of 49 topnotch world tournaments were won by the Filipinos," said Fajardo. "Our very deep bench showed our talent in the pool table."

In the report of Billiards Digest managing editor Mason King, Asians took 18 titles out of the 49 tournaments (36.7 percent) held from Jan. 1, 2005 up to Aug. 31, 2006. Forty of these events were held in the US.

The Americans were in 2nd place with 15 titles (30.6 percent) while the Europeans were third was 14 titles (the same as the Filipinos) or 28.6 percent. Germany copped 10 titles while Canada took two titles.

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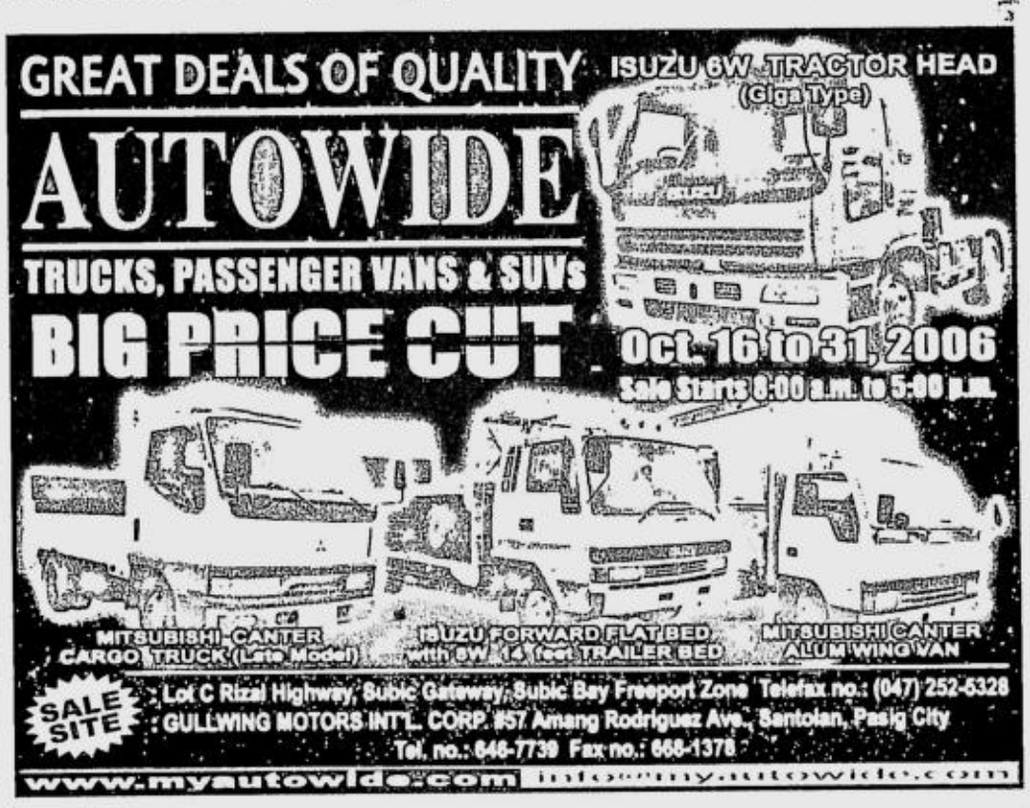

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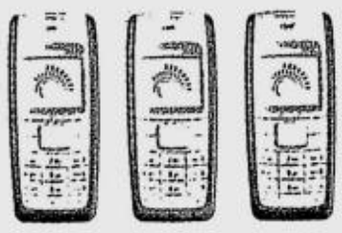

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Zoleta keeps Asian 14-Under net title

NOELLE NIKKI ZOLETA WON'T YIELD the crown in front of her countrymen.

Drawing from her reserve power and big fighting heart, Zoleta rallied past Korean Han Na-Lae, 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, yesterday to capture the Asian 14-Under Series girls' singles title for the third straight year at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center outdoor court in Pasig City.

Hounded by errors, Zoleta dropped the second set. But she willed herself back into the fight, racing to a 5-0 lead in the third set. The second-seeded Han, who earlier suffered leg cramps, managed to close in at 3-5 but Zoleta broke her opponent's serve on the eighth game to win the match.

"She (Han) improved on her game in the second set, making good placement shots while I wasn't returning the ball well," said the 14-year-old Zoleta, who honed her skills in the World Junior Championships in Indonesia early this year. "Good thing, I was able to come back and control the third set."

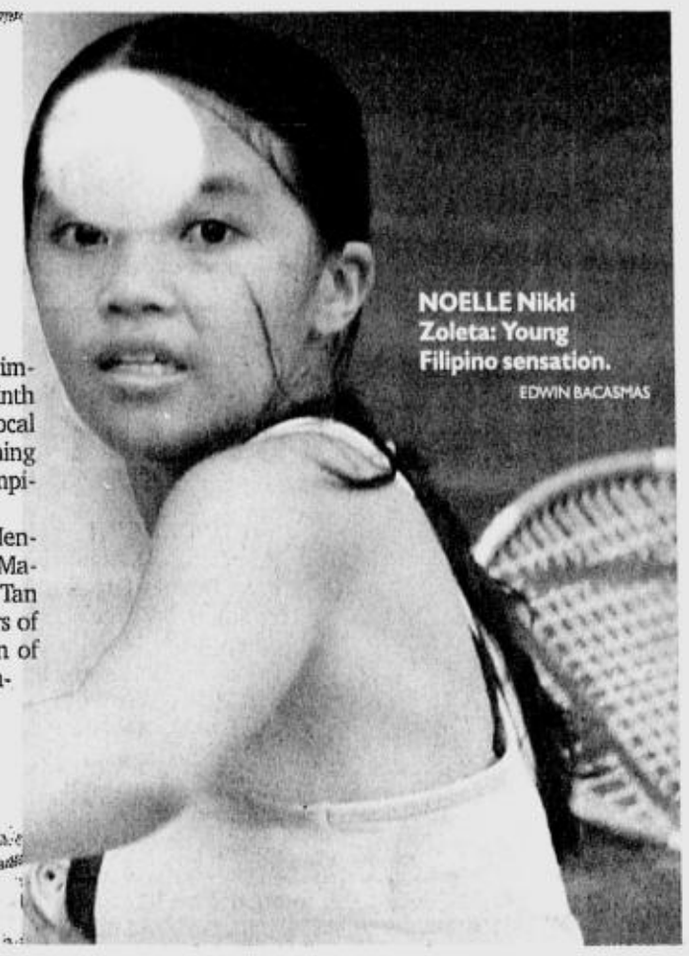
South Korean Noh Sang-Woo, seeded fourth, routed third seed Nuttorn Tanchainant of Thailand, 6-0, 6-0, to pocket the boys' singles title.

It was the second title for Noh, who won the second leg of the Asian 14-Under Series in Bangladesh. He lost the first leg title to Tanchainant, 6-7, 2-6.

Han, exploiting her solid forehand came up with successive winners to take a 5-1 lead in the second set. Zoleta took the next two games before the Korean held her serve to win the set and knot the count at 1-set each.

Noh, whose victory is expected to improve his national rankings from ninth to seventh, will compete in some local tournaments back home before joining the Asian 14-Under Series Championships in Bangkok on Nov. 20.

Philta president Luis Antonio Mendoza and secretary general Romeo Magat and Wilson sales manager Gerry Tan awarded the trophies to the winners of the event backed by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. *Roy Luarca*


NOELLE Nikki Zoleta: Young Filipino sensation. EDWIN BACASMAS

San Pablo tennis tilt up Oct. 21

CLOSE TO A HUNDRED ENTRIES, including the country's Top Ten, will see action in the 2006 Don Arsenio Escudero Cup tennis tournament on Oct. 21 at the Aera Tennis Club, Schetelig Ave., San Pablo City.

The competition, sponsored by Villa Escudero Plantations & Resort, ATR Torres Wines & Spirits, Ford Dearborn Motors, is sanctioned by the Philippine Lawn Tennis Association and offers a cash prize of P120,000.

Registration forms are available at the Philta Office, selected tennis clubs in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Supporters include Dunlop/Slazenger and Toby's Sports.

For inquiries, call Boy Leonora, 09176965454; Owen Alcantara, 09175402153; Ador Penaverde, 09193106511.

BANAYAG retains crown.

Doha delegation biggest ever

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DESPITE TIGHT BUDGET AND MODest goals, the Philippines is fielding its biggest Asian Games delegation ever in Doha this December and will see action in most sports disciplines in all its Asiad stints.

The Philippines will send 267 athletes in Qatar, slightly more than its previous all-time high of 259 in Bangkok in 1998. The Filipinos will also take part in 31 of the 40 events on tap, one more sport than the 2002 Busan edition.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco was upbeat over the large contingent, saying the entire delegation—400 including coaches and officials—are on the right track.

He, however, refused to make a forecast though the POC's partner Philippine Sports Commission had earlier predicted the country to duplicate if not surpass the three gold medals, seven silvers and 16 bronzes it won four years ago.

"Let us not get distracted over our Asian Games preparation," said Cojuangco, whose daughter equestrian champ Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski won one of the three golds in individual show jumping.

Django Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes won't see action this time but RP billiards are counting on lesser lights to defend the 9-balls doubles gold Bustamante and Nikoy Lining won in Busan.

Bowling great Paeng Nepomuceno will also miss his partner RJ Bautista in Qatar when the Filipinos try to retain the men's doubles championship they copped in Busan.

Big delegations don't usually have big yields, though, as proven in Bangkok where the country sent 259 athletes in 28 sports disciplines. Of the entire contingent, cue masters Gandy Valle and Snooky Villanueva were the only ones who brought home a gold.

The Philippines' strongest showing in the quadrennial event was in 1954 when it was held in the country. The Philippines won 14 golds, 14 silvers and 17 bronzes. In our home turf, we won four gold medals in swimming, four in shooting, five in boxing and one in basketball.

The worst was in 1974 Tehran Games where the country went home with just two silvers—both from swimming great Ral Rosario—and 11 bronzes.

There won't be a basketball squad this year, once again prolonging the country's quest of its first Asian Games gold since the 1952 Jakarta Asiad. In that edition, the country amassed seven golds, including one from boxer Manfredo Alipala who recently passed away.

Two in, two out

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND THERE'S bad news from the Philippine Basketball League (PBL).

With the entry of two guest teams this coming season—Mail and More and Jean Henri's Cebuana Lhuillier—the number of ballclubs in the league should go up from 8 to 10.

That's the good news.

However, the bad news is, two regular ballclubs have folded up: First Montaña, and very, very recently—at the last minute so to speak—Granny Goose which gave notice of its disbandment at the last minute, leaving several players and coaching staff dislocated.

Both Montaña and Granny Goose cagers were placed in the dispersal draft.

According to reports, there had been no indication that Granny would be dropping out of the league this season. However, a business partner which had provided subsidy to the team had backed out, leaving the ballclub financially handicapped.

Davao-based Montaña has joined a regional basketball league. There are speculations that the Cebu-based Granny Goose may follow the same route, but again, they might not.

Thus, the PBL equation now is: Eight plus two minus two equals eight. Eight remains the magic number for the PBL.

* * *

Michael Chua, eldest son of Red Bull chief George Chua, has been installed general manager of the Barakos.

His appointment was formally announced in Guam last month during the Red Bull-Alaska game, the first of the season.

The 26-year-old Michael, who shares the same passion for basketball like his father, has an AB Economics diploma from De la Salle University. He is still single.

Michael will be handling the affairs of the Red Bull Barako, hand in hand with Tony Chua who retains the dual function of PBA governor and Red Bull team manager.

* * *

Speaking of Guam, Lambert Ramos, the Nextel president who coordinates the PBA games between the league and Guam promoter Paul Shimizu, has advised me to keep my unused plane ticket to the American territory.

Lambert said I could still use this when the PBA returns to Guam next year for another regular PBA game.

He was joking about the ticket, of course. Because by the time, it would have expired.

But Lambert was not joking about the PBA game.

While Guam promoter Paul Shimizu (president of Shimbros and vice president/director of umbrella company Ambros, distributor of Budweiser beer, Kimberly-Clark products, among others, in Guam, Saipan and Micronesia), lost money again in the latest PBA venture, Lambert said the loss was not as much as those in the last three PBA projects back in the '90s. There was a time when as many as four PBA teams were brought to Guam to play a mini-series.

"Paul is committed to give the same treat to Filipinos here again next year, whether he makes money or not, as long as Budweiser supports the project. Paul is close to the Filipinos here. They comprise a third of the 160,000 population. Since Guamenians are basically of the same size as Filipinos, Paul believes the PBA could bring to the country a new level of basketball technology," explained Lambert who disclosed that this was a pact made between the Japanese businessman and his Filipino brother.

Of course we all know who the Filipino brother is.

Sermona tops Run for Life

JULIUS SERMONA EMERGED NEW MEN'S champion even as Jho-an Banayag retained her crown yesterday in the 3rd WRR 101.9 Run for Life, a benefit running event for the intensive care unit of Ospital Ng Maynila, at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Sermona, a silver medalist in the 5K and bronze medalist in the 10K event of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, outsprinted reigning Milo Marathon champion and 42K record holder Cresenciano Sabal near the finish line to claim his first title here.

Sermona finished the 10-kilometer course in 30 minutes and 37 seconds. "I gave it all in the last 3.5 kilometers."

Sabal crossed the endline 14 seconds behind Sermona to bag second place. Desamito settled for third place at 31:29.

The top three men's and women's finishers in the 10K distance will receive P10,000; P6,000; P4,000, respectively.

Pinoys top... From page A25

In terms of money earnings, which has a total of $1,456,034 in the same period, Asia was also tops with 49.3 percent or $717,484. The Filipinos, led by Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes won $572,484 or approximately 80 percent of the total Asians earning.

Other Filipinos on the list are Django Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan, Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcollo, Amang Parica, Ronato Calam Alcano, Rodolfo Luat, Antonio Lining, Ramil Valle, Gandy Valle, Warren Kiamco, Antonio Gabica, Ramon Mistica, Santos Sambajon, Lee Van Corteza and Edwin Montal. *Marlon Bernardino*

Club 650 bets grab early lead

Standings: Group I: Club 650 4-0, Excel 2-1, BCMI 1-2, Hardicourt 1-2, Ace 0-3; **Group II:** Celebrity 4-0, Valle Verde 3-1, Manila Polo 3-1, Villamor 1-3, Smash N Fun 0-3, Raq4cock 0-3

By Jong Arcano

PLAYING FOR FUN AND WITH HARDly any expectations, Club 650 ended up getting most of the praises yesterday at the start of the Battle of the Courts badminton championship's second eliminations leg it is hosting.

The Club 650 shuttlers pulled off one big surprise after the other for a clean sweep of its four matches that assured them of a first ever trip to the grand finals in three years.

The host club beat Ace, Excel, Hardicourt and then Badminton Central Makati Inc. in succession—all via hard-earned 2-1 results—to clinch the first berth in Group I of the tourney presented by Rush Fitness Water, Mizuno Badminton and INQUIRER Badminton.

The Battle of the Courts is also sponsored by Duty Free Philippines, BSI medicated spray, Unilever and Gerflor Taraflex as the official mat. Radio partners are Wave 89.1 and 92.3 Joey.

In Group 2, three-teams—Celebrity, Valle Verde and Manila Polo Club—are locked in a battle for the two slots with the final eliminations matches today still having a bearing on the race.

Celebrity racked up four consecutive victories against Raq4cock, Smash N Fun, Valle Verde and Villamor but will still have to face a dangerous Manila Polo side in its last game today.

Seeded team Valle Verde averted outright elimination when it beat Manila Polo Club, 2-1, in its last match for the day and tie its victim for second place at 3-1.

A triple-tie looms should Manila Polo beat Celebrity today which will be broken by counting the total number of matches won.

RP Golf Show begins Friday

REIGNING BB. PILIPINAS UNIVERSE LIA Andrea Ramos will be the guest of honor in the opening of the 11th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show on Friday at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Ramos will be joined by officials of the organizing Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines led by its president Lovell Gopez in cutting the ceremonial ribbon at 10 a.m. at the main entrance of the exhibit hall.

Also expected to grace the simple curtain-raising rites are GDAP officers Dick Posadas, Richie Macapagal, Mert Besa and Ana Herrera (Golf Show seminars chairperson). Call Fairs and More Inc. (Sweet or Karen) 8451324 or 7596680.

Expats rule Scramble

EXPATRIATES KAZUO MIYASHITA and Jung Tae Son rode an eagle on the 13th hole to an eight-under-par 64 and a one-stroke victory over three other teams in Group I of the Mizuno Scramble Golf Classic fourth leg yesterday at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

On top of that eagle-3 on a par-5, Miyashi and Son also combined for eight birdies against two bogeys as they edged three teams who turned in 65s—Peter Paul Salvador/Nguyen Tuan, Ian Arcilla/Jose Mari Escuadro and Nestor Sevilla/Wolen Superal—for the top award.

Salvador and Tuan took the runner-up trophy after a countback.

Roderic Casquejo and Ric Antonio conspired for a 66 to rule Group II while Jaime Uy and Alex Dy won the Group III plum over a large field of 72 member-member teams who took part in the 18-hole continuation of a course-hopping series.

The Benner at the Riviera, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, BMW Philippines and Philippine Airlines are the major sponsors of the Mizuno Scramble Classic. The other sponsors are Citibank, Mail&More, Renee Barbier Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Solar, Power Bar, Oakley, Citgo, C-Lium Fibre, INQUIRER Golf and Golf Digest Philippines.

Throng salivating for seat in Pacquiao-Morales III

COMMENTARY

By Hermie Rivera

THE MUCH AWAITED 12-ROUND showdown between Manny Pacquiao and Eric Morales in Las Vegas, Nevada, is almost at hand.

As we approach the fight date of Nov. 18 (19th Manila time), the guys taking charge of this ring promo are one in saying that reporters and fans are still in the dark as to who has the edge in the final deal of this intriguing trilogy.

I guess you would be, too, if you count yourself part of the large throng salivating for a seat in boxing's newest heaven—the Thomas and Mack Center—where Morales tumbled to submission courtesy of a 10th round knockout by the hitman from GenSan, Cotabato.

Before that, "El Terrible" Morales halted Pacquiao's winning streak in May of last year, an outstanding feat that put a dent on Pacman's winning form throughout much of his comeback.

But the Filipino boxing idol avenged his painful loss with aplomb—dealing the Mexican three-time champ his only knockout loss of his career.

Somehow I find my elation at nearing the conclusion of this bitter rivalry of the two ring icons stressed by the scheduled journey of a parasitic band, primed to leave for this spectacular fight of Manny Pacquiao at (you guessed it) his expense.

Favored officials of the Games and Amusements board have finalized their travel itinerary, unmindful of the need to look for ways to help our boxers needing assistance as mandated by their charter. This agency could not care less for as long as they are snugly ensconced at ringside for such boxing rarity.

Never mind if their presence is needed here to afford them a chance at lobbying for a professional boxing act that could set safety standards for our pugilists.

Not even health insurance is provided for our great unwashed, and the much needed protection for our fighters from absconding promoters is non existent under the current set-up.

Worse, this agency does not implement its own regulation covering purses which provides that prize money of contending parties must be paid in full before a championship match is executed.

Case in point: Luisito Espinosa's 1997 unpaid purse of $150,000 owed to the boxer by the promoters led by ex Gov. Larry de Pedro, Rod Nazario and Lito Mondejar in that regrettable title setto in Koronadal, South Cotabato

What we've been treated to is the spectacle of GAB subalterns headed by their top honchos, constantly touring various capitals of the world attending conventions of dubious alphabet organizations.

Oh yes. These modern-day Marco Polos have been at it since heaven-knows-when, circumnavigating the world boxing capitals instead of finding ways to help solve some of the problems bedeviling the fight game. At our expense.

As in previous Pacquiao fights, it would also do well for everyone to keep track of the continued pilgrimage of our gallivanting politicos who'll for sure be splurging at the fabulous sights and sounds of glitzy Vegas.

The same aggregation who've done nothing to help our bold practitioners of the art—our ambassadors who've brought honor and pride to the country.

We are left to stare at the utter helplessness of our ring campaigners utterly neglected by these heartless souls who abound in what the late Jimmy Cannon calls "the red light district of sports."

Sound management is critical to the health of an organization, office or association. Sadly, the country is saddled with an agency that has outlived its usefulness.

About time a more robust sports body is created, one that could give a much needed-breath of fresh air to our hapless prizefighters. Any takers?

Cardinals soar past Eagles, gain Final 4

By Jasmine W. Payo

ONLY THE END RESULT MATTERED for the Mapua Cardinals.

Surviving a late-game collapse, the Cardinals ousted the top-seeded Ateneo Blue Eagles, 70-66, to advance to the Final Four of the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The sixth-ranked Cardinals blew a 21-point buffer, 49-28, but managed to stay afloat in the closing minutes with their veterans on the floor. Raymond Tiongco topscored with 24 points.

GAMES THURSDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UE vs Mapua
4 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU

The Cardinals had to do without one of their top gunners Kelvin dela Pena due to a personal commitment.

But the Eagles also missed the services of starting center Rabeh Al Hussaini and second stringers Ford Arao, Eric Salamat and Johan Uichico due to academic reasons.

"We've never beaten Ateneo in the pre-season," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim. "But it's a depleted Ateneo lineup. We have the tendency to be complacent; it's the weakness of most teams."

The Cardinals will take on the University of the East Warriors in the semifinal round on Thursday.

Earlier, wildcard entry Jose Rizal Bombers also toppled another collegiate heavyweight to secure a semifinal slot.

Five days after stunning UAAP champion Santo Tomas Tigers, the Bombers ousted the Letran Knights with a 64-58 triumph.

The Bombers weathered a Knights' comeback behind Floyd Dedicatoria and John Wilson, who combined for 31 points.

"Maybe there's no pressure because we're a wildcard," said JRU coach Ariel Vanguardia.

With the victory, the Bombers arranged a semifinal duel against NCAA champion San Beda Lions.

Sean Co provided enough breathing room for the Cardinals after nailing two free throws for a 70-66 edge with 18.7 seconds left.

Struggling throughout the game, JC Intal missed two attempts in the closing seconds.

The scores:

Second Game

MAPUA 70—Tiongco 24, Mazo 8, Del Rosario 8, Co 8, Guillermo 6, N. Pascula 6, Sumalinog 4, Acosta 2, Palomique 2, J. Pascual 2, Migraso 0, Gonzales 0.

ATENEO 66—Reyes 20, Kramer 14, Escalona 9, Quimson 9, Intal 7, Laterre 4, Escueta 2, Monfort 1, Barracoso 0, Tiu 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 45-28, 62-51, 70-66

Ozamiz battles Tribu 5

CANTILAN, SURIGAO del Sur—Defending champion Ozamiz Cotta and first NBC titlist Tribu Sugbu square off today in a contest highlighting the 150th Foundation Day of this town.

Both teams, touted as among the strong contenders in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament, are struggling early. But the 6 p.m. contest is still expected to be a thriller, much like when the two teams clashed for the crown twice in the past.

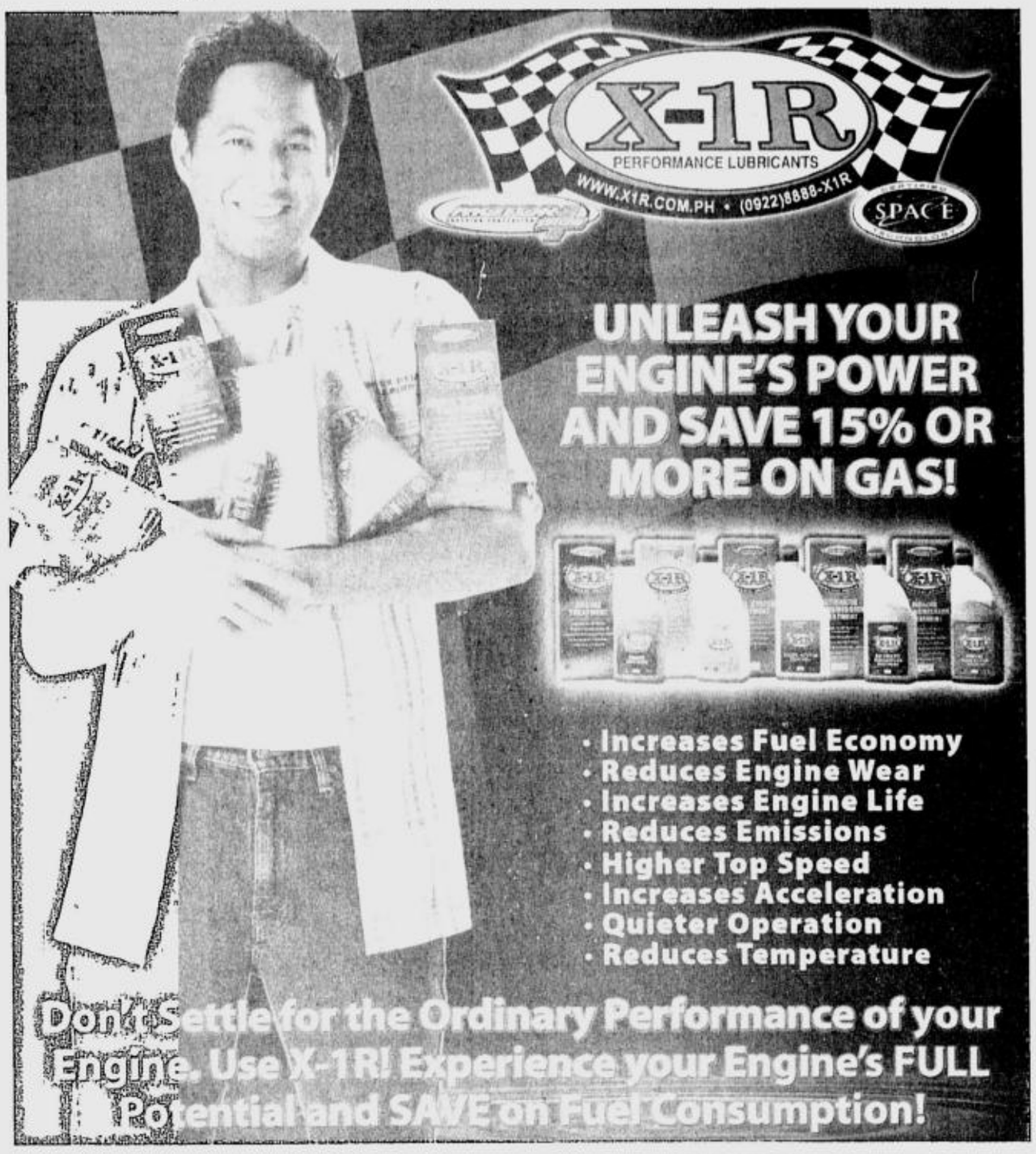
Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers appear to have the slight edge because of an intact lineup. But the Cebuanos of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac have also assembled a tough squad led by beefy 6-foot-5 slotman JR Quinahan, who is called "Baby Shaq."

Guardo's mother, Cantilan Mayor Tomasa Guardo, will be guest of honor in the game supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

"We're happy to host an official NBC game here," said Mayor Guardo. "Our people are excited to see the finest cagers from the South (Visayas/Mindanao)."

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla readily agreed to have the game played here.

Ozamiz pins its hopes on MVPs Marlon Basco and Christian Nicdao.



Don Exequiel seeks all-comers' diadem

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—DON EXEquiel, a colt whose date with destiny was stalled a bit in the Triple Crown series, guns for the unofficial all-comers' championship among three-year-olds in the race that highlights Klub Don Juan de Manila Day at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The handsome chestnut by American stallion Benchmark out of Belle Epoque will be the only Triple Crown veteran in the star-studded nine-horse field gunning for the P1.150 million champion's purse.

And it's no secret that the Jonathan B. Hernandez-steered speedball will go all out in the 2,000-meter race set to be flagged off at 5:20 p.m., for this could somehow ease the pain of the mixed fortunes he had in the Triple Crown.

"He's more matured now, after what happened (in the TC 3rd leg)," owner Hermie Esguerra said yesterday. "Even horses learn their lessons, and it would be interesting to see how he comes out of it."

Don Exequiel, whom Esguerra named after his late father, has never really gotten the respect he deserves in his young career.

RACING
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Angel Of Light (5), Lirao (6), Ghurka (4), District Three (3)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Neon Light (3), Balwarte (4), Golden Record (1), Gifted Guest (6)
Race 3—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—No Fear (5), ES Twenty Six (2), Landed Visa/Condoleeza (4), Irene's Fantasy (11), Please Do (1)
Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Red Diamond (6), Divine Diva (1), Makati Haven (2), Virgin Island (5)
Race 5—(Tri)—Macho Man/Pacman (7), Miguelito (5), Deputy Stravinsky (4)
Race 6—(Ort/Tri)—Earl Gray/Tres Jeune (5), Sweet Connections (6), Fast Reason (3), Iron Heart (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Don Exequiel/Hear Me (2), Leave No Doubt (8), Manhattan (9), Fairy Queen (5), Manila's Gem (6)
Race 8—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Shutter (5), Feverishly (7), Humble Beginnings (10), Sweet Xarah (9)< Dancing Folly (8)
Race 9—Suppressed/Wild Orchid (4), La Tienne/Ever Mina Now (3)
Race 10—(Ort/Tri)—Blondie Baj (2), King Aljhun (6), Lord Gold (1), My Sheikh (4)
Race 11—(Ort/Tri)—Roxster (5), Sambat (6), Harrod's Magic (2), U Are My Sunshine (4)
Race 12—(Ort/Tri)—Vitality (2), Kay Akino (5), Manila Magic (6), Erica's Talent (1)
Race 13—(SUper 6/Ort/Tri)—Strong Boy (6), Idol (9), Raven (10), Overture/Amazing Firenze (13), La Signorina (4), Bumpy Johnson (3)

SPORTSWATCH

PTAA Golf Cup begins tomorrow

THE 6TH PTAA GOLF CUP WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (MONDAY, OCT. 16) at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna, with more than 180 participants. The PTAA Golf Cup, an annual competition among travel and tourism's top executives, their clients and friends had Philippine Airlines as the co-presenter. The other sponsors are Northwest Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Amadeus Marketing Philippines Inc. Galileo Asia, LLC-Philippine Branch, Abacus Distribution Systems Philippines Inc. Blue Cross, Boracay Tropics, SEAIR, Skynet Travel, Swatch Golf Shoes/Trident International. Tee-off starts at 7:30 a.m.

Stagfest at Las Piñas today

IT WILL BE A FOUR–CORNERED SHOWDOWN AMONG BIG-TIME COCKERS OF Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas when the DMC 4-stag derby blasts off at Las Piñas Coliseum tonight. With more than 60 fights lined up, the derby will start at 7 p.m., said host Marlon de Castro. Gunning for the title are Gerry Ramos, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Louie Cua, Benjie Lim, Pepito Ngo, Boy de Roca, Mandy Garcia, Butchoy Olano, Eric dela Rosa, Paeng Arciaga, Preco Reyes, Itan Veluz, Super Pacman entry, RC Sayaman, Alex Tobias, Danny Alejo and Strike Revilla. Call 874-3910, 873-1040 and 0926 -7450375 (Julius).

No Entry Fee Labanan up

DERBYISTS OF METRO MANILA AND RIZAL WILL SEE ACTION IN TODAY'S NO entry fee Labanan 7-stag derby at Pasig Square Garden with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The 3-stag elimination round will start at 6 p.m., said PSG operator Butch Nunez. Conceptualized by Patrick Antonio, the event requires no entry fee. Only a proof of purchase of any Sagupaan products worth P1,000 must be presented by participants. Screening of stags for this event is still ongoing and interested parties may call 0916–4763030 (Ariel) or 0917–8064758 (Neil). Elimination rounds are also scheduled at San Juan Coliseum (Oct. 16); Pasay City Cockpit (Oct. 20) and Araneta Coliseum (Oct. 24 and 26).

Pampanga cocker triumphs

LITTLE-KNOWN PAMPANGA COCKER CHARLIE SY RULED THE LUZON GAMECock Breeders Association (LGBA) 5-stag derby on Thursday at Araneta Coliseum after his Aquarius entry tallied 4.5 points. According to LGBA president Boy Diaz, the race for this year's LGBA Gamecocker Breeder of the Year is becoming more exciting among 25 contenders. Two more rounds sizzle at Araneta on Oct. 17 and 19. Each day of competition will banner 100 fights using the "straight five stags" format. The grand championship derby unfolds on Nov. 4 also at Araneta Coliseum with the backing of B-Meg Derby Ace, Gran Matador, Purina, Thunderbird, Lakpue Drug Inc. and Asvet. Call 911-2928 and 911-3101.

SJC Bugbugan slated Oct. 21

THE SJC BUGBUGAN 5-STAG DERBY, A NO- HOLDS-BARRED ONE-DAY battle of big-time derbyists, takes centerstage at San Juan Collseum on Oct. 21 with more than 50 confirmed entries. Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the event will be hosted by Louie Cua and Dori Du of Davao. Due to the big number of entries, the total prize may reach as much as P2.5 million, said Cua. Entry fee is P55,000. Cua and Du's invited participants include the who's who in *sabong* from Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Zamboanga, Bicol, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Rizal and Batangas. Call 725-5369 and 725-5665.

JC heads awardees

TEAM LOYALTY will be lauded this season.

The UAAP Press Corps will honor the collegiate cagers who played for five straight years in the men's basketball competition in an awards ceremony at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Pantalan Restaurant.

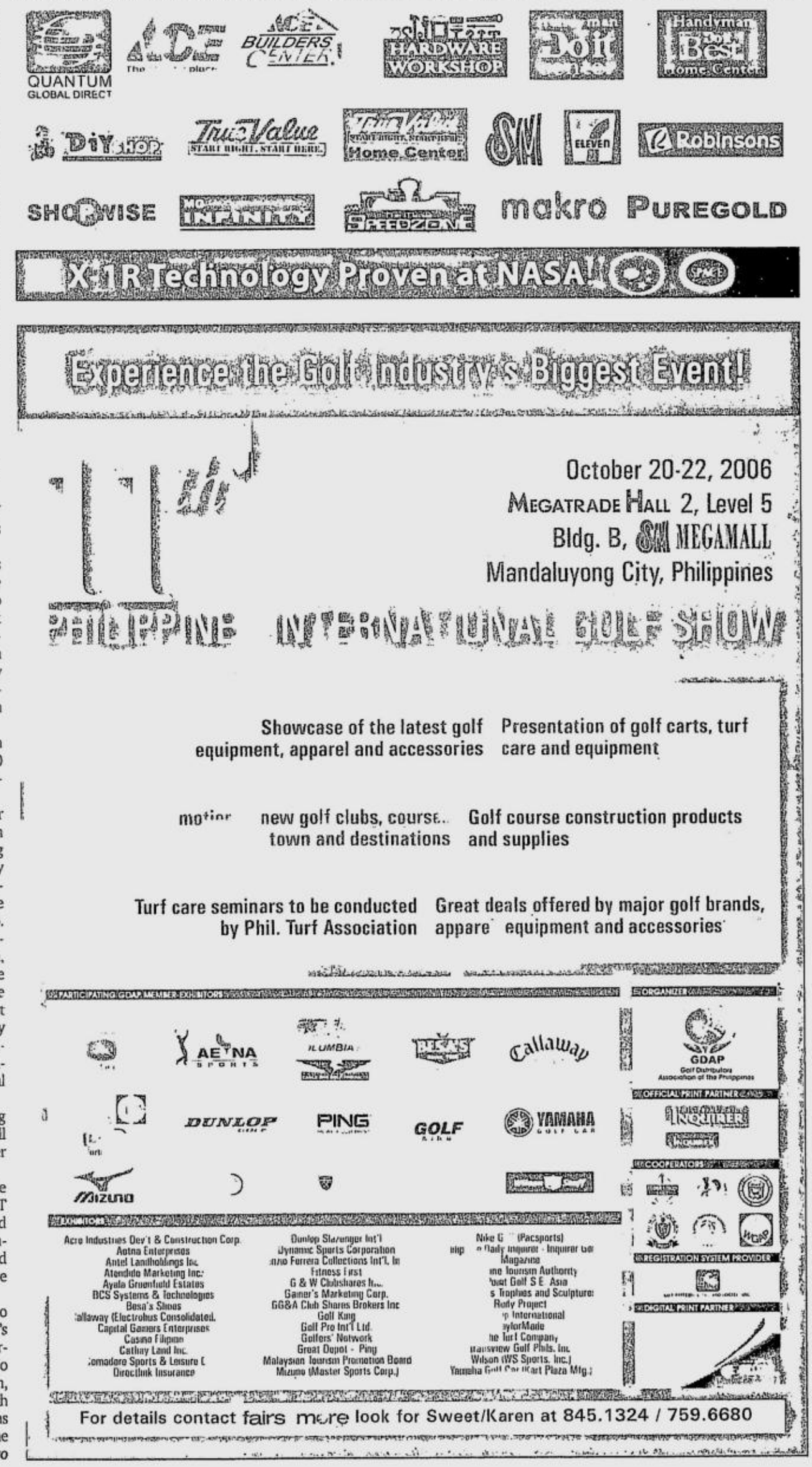
Ateneo main man JC Intal leads the 10 recipients of the Special Senior award.

Completing their full five-year journey in the league are Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona of Ateneo, Allan Evangelista of the University of Sto. Tomas, Francis Barcellano of Far Eastern, Nestor David of the University of the Philippines, Robert Labagala of University of the East, Dave Catamora and Jason Malcontento of National University.

Intal, the high-flying Ateneo forward, will also receive the Player of the Year plum.

Pido Jarencio of the newly crowned UST Tigers also got the nod of the scribes from major broadsheets and tabloids to bag the Coach of the Year.

The group will also pay tribute to UST's breakthrough performers led by Jojo Duncil as Mr. Clutch, Dylan Ababou as Sixth Man and Jervy Cruz as Defensive Player of the Year. *Jasmine W. Payo*



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E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Goosen takes five-stroke lead; Lascuna 9 down

SANYA, CHINA—DEFENDING CHAMPION Retief Goosen shot a 5-under-par 67 Saturday to move to 20 under and extend his lead to five strokes heading into the final round of the China Masters. First-round leader Lu Wen-teh of Taiwan shot a 69 to sit in second place, one stroke ahead of 2005 US Open winner Michael Campbell. Filipino Tony Lascuna shot a 69 and was tied for seventh at 9 under. Two shots off was Frankie Miñoza (67). Juvic Pagunsan (70) was tied for 21st place at 5 under. *AP*

Tigers melt frost, A's

Kenny Rogers hot anew; Cardinals tie Mets

DETROIT—KENNY ROGERS pitched the game of his life once again and the Detroit Tigers backed him with their bats, gloves and legs, beating the Oakland Athletics, 3-0, on a frosty Friday to take a 3-0 lead in the American League championship series.

Manager Jim Leyland made another lineup hunch pay off as the wild-card Tigers—yes, the same team that dropped 119 games only three years ago—posted their sixth straight postseason victory and moved within one win of their first World Series since 1984.

Putting aside temperatures in the low 40s Fahrenheit (four to five degrees Celsius) at Comerica Park that forced both teams to put flame-throwing blowers in their dugouts, Rogers shut out the Athletics on two mere singles over 7 1/3 innings.

He drew a loud ovation when he left, and the Detroit bullpen did the rest.

Craig Monroe homered, Placido Polanco delivered two more hits off losing pitcher Rich Harden and Tigers closer Todd Jones finished for his second save of the series.

At this rate, nothing seems able to stop the Tigers. Want evidence? Leyland pulled Game 2 star Alexis Gomez, put Omar Infante into his first postseason game and the DH singled and walked.

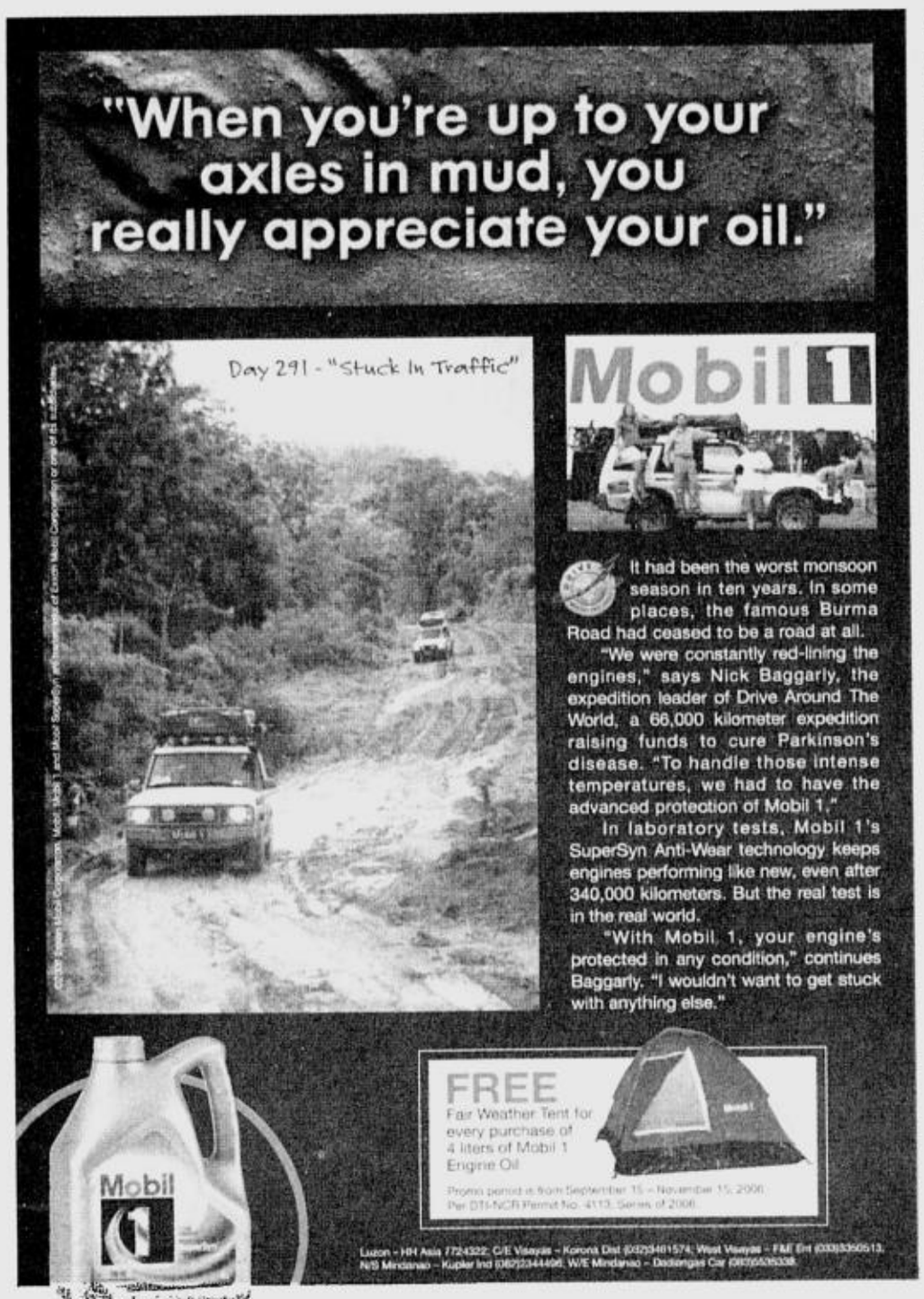
Certainly the Tigers' luck didn't change on Friday the 13th. And, a day after the earliest measured snowfall in the city's history, the cold was no problem, though it helped the game was switched from nighttime to day.

The A's get one last chance Saturday in Game 4, with Dan Haren starting against former Oakland draft pick Jeremy Bonderman. Only once in baseball history has a team rallied from an 0-3 deficit in the postseason, with Boston doing it against the New York Yankees in 2004.

In New York, So Taguchi hit a tiebreaking homer off Billy Wagner leading off a three-run ninth inning, lifting St. Louis over New York, 9-6, to tie the National League championship series at one game apiece.

NL Cy Young pitching award winner Chris Carpenter faltered, but the Cardinals tied the game after trailing 3-0 and 4-2, then came back again in the seventh after falling behind 6-4. *AP*

KENNY Rogers of the Detroit Tigers cooks up another pitching triumph. REUTERS



Palmer gives up competitive golf

SPRING, TEXAS—AN ACHING BACK and too many bad shots finally convinced Arnold Palmer to end his competitive career.

Palmer withdrew after playing only four holes of the Administaff Small Business Classic on Friday, then told his loyal fans at the end of the round that he was retiring from tournament play.

Palmer made the tearful announcement with a large group of "Arnie's Army" huddled around.

"I made every move in the bag today to make a good shot and I wasn't very successful," Palmer said. "That's not surprising. It just didn't come today. It's been working its way into my repertoire. It's tough and it's emotional for me because it's my life."

Palmer, 77, hit two balls into the water on the par 4, 440-yard No. 4 hole Friday, playing in a threesome with Lee Trevino and John Mahaffey.

He played the rest of the round but did not keep score.

Palmer played his final PGA Tour event at the 2004 Masters, a record 50th consecutive start at Augusta National. His first victory at the Masters in 1958 is where "Arnie's Army" was created, a time when television began to take interest in golf and had the charismatic Palmer to bring the masses to the game. *AP*

Red Bull's Fonacier WBL guest

RED BULL STALWART LARRY Fonacier will be guest of honor today during the opening of the Milo BEST Center Women's Basketball League at the Xavier School Sports Complex in San Juan, Greenhills.

A former star in the SBP and Passerelle tournaments, Fonacier will make the ceremonial toss during the 8 a.m. opening rites.

Thirty-six teams will see action in the tourney organized by BEST Center and sponsored by Milo.

The contenders:

Elementary—Miriam College, Community of Learners, De la Salle Zobel and Poveda Learning Centre.

High School (competitive)—De la Salle Zobel, Angelicum College, Assumption College, Community of Learners, La Salle College Antipolo, Miriam College, New Era University, San Beda College Alabang, School of the Holy Spirit and St. Scholastica's College.

High school (developmental)—Immaculate Conception Academy, Assumption Antipolo, Colegio de Sta. Rosa, First Asian Institute of Technology, Grace Christian High School, Montessori Integrated School, Poveda Learning Centre, PWU-JASMS, School of St. Anthony, Southville International School, St. James Academy (Malabon), St. Scholastica's College Westgrove, St. Theresa's College and UP Integrated School.

College—Assumption College, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, St. Scholastica's College, University of Sto. Tomas and UP Los Baños.

It was a knockout, Pacquiao trainer insists

CONTRARY TO THE CLAIM OF A REPRESENTATIVE for undefeated fighter Shadi Hamsyo, superstar Manny Pacquiao's trainer Buboy Fernandez yesterday said that indeed, the tall and rangy Swedish fighter went down during a sparring session with the pound-for-pound icon more than a week ago.

"Yes, there was a knockdown. Everybody in the gym knows about it," revealed Fernandez in a long-distance interview yesterday from Los Angeles.

PACQUIAO

"The article is not true. I was on hand and witnessed the sparring session," said Reidar Reidar, adding that the confirmation made by Filipino boxers Bobby Pacquiao and Gerry Peñalosa of the supposed knockdown was "a terrible lie."

"I talked to both fighters and neither said they made such a claim," Reidar said.

However, Fernandez said that to Hamsyo's credit, he was able to finish the sparring session on both feet, although it was clear that Pacquiao was holding back on his punches following the knockdown.

Los Angeles-based Philboxing.com correspondent Ed de la Vega, who first reported the incident in his report, also yesterday stood firm on his story that Hamsyo was indeed downed by Pacquiao.

Pacquiao is currently preparing for his third match against Erik Morales. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

La Sallites get 'totally smashed'

SILVER JUBILARIAN HOST CLASS BATCH '82 will hold Totally Smashed!, a One La Salle badminton tournament on Nov. 11, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Zone Badminton Courts on Malugay Street, Makati City.

All alumni (with at least two-year residency) from any La Salle school and all currently enrolled students are encouraged to join this Combined Age Group play format.

Entry fees are P700 per person.

Professional players, coaches, trainers, former or current national team players are ineligible to participate. A player may sign up for a maximum of two events. Proof of age IDs are also required.

Deadline for entries is on Nov. 4, 2006. Log on to www.dlsaa.com or call 5265212, 5236158, 8161978, 0922-4117707 for details.

The tournament is presented by Globe, San Miguel Corp., Powerade, Animo Magazine, First Pacific Insurance and sponsored by First Gen, Toby's, Value Vision, Metro Plaza Davao, Sunlife Financial, Altec, Nescafe, Lily's Peanut Butter, Ambi Pur, Union Bank Visa Card, Air 21, 92.3 Joey, RS Concepts, Guess, Mossimo, Mango, Lulu Castagnette, Gold's Gym, Gloria Jeans, Pisanti, PAMI and many more.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B I

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Cebu's shoe capital** refuses to think sunset has fallen on shoemaking /B2

Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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■ **Aetas** sell, beg to live /B4

Where rich Filipino-Chinese came from (and are going to)

85 percent of Chinoys trace roots to Fujian; many are investing back

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas Bureau

XIAMEN, PEOPLE'S REpublic of China—When President Macapagal-Arroyo visits Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China, she will not only be tracing the route taken by the ancestors of most Filipino-Chinese but will be seeking to expand existing Philippine-Chinese exchanges.

Many Filipino-Chinese come from Amoy, the old Xiamen. But research of Director Daniel Espiritu of the Department of Foreign Affairs China & North Asia division show just how much influence Fujian has on the Philippines today, in terms of the migrants and the children they sired in the land they now call home.

Espiritu says nearly 85 percent of Filipino-Chinese trace their roots to Fujian particularly in the cities of Xiamen (Amoy), Quanzhou, Jinjiang and Shishi.

Heading the list is no less than Dr. Jose Rizal whose great grandfather, Ke Nan, migrated to the Philippines from Quiongque village in Jinjiang about 300 years ago. In fact, a monument of Rizal stands in Quiongque's Rizal square within the People's Cultural Plaza in Quiongque, Jinjiang City.

Aside from Rizal, the most prominent Filipinos who boast of Fujian roots include former Presidents Emilio Aguinaldo, Sergio Osmeña, Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino. The country's first woman President, in fact, paid a visit to her ancestral home in a village near Xiamen during her state visit to China in 1988.

There is no doubt that Fujian is in the heart of many Filipino expatriates as shown by Filipino-Chinese investments in the province. Among them are Lucio Tan's Allied Bank, Asia Brewery, ETON Group of Companies and Philippine Airlines, Henry Sy's SM City Company Ltd. In Xiamen, Jinjiang and Fuzhou, George Go's Guang Ming Plaza real estate ventures, Alfonso Yuchengco's Malayan Insurance Co. Ltd., John Ng's Metal Steel Company in Fuzhou and Xiamen Taifeng Real Estate Co. Ltd., the Pacific Plaza Building of Gilbert Yu, Wilbert Yu and Jimmy Tang, John Gokongwei's

WHERE/B2

THE HIGH-RISE buildings in Xiamen, Fujian where many Chinese-Filipinos trace their ancestry. (Inset) A Chinese worker obliges a request for a photo with the billboard of the Chocolate Hills a distance behind her

PHOTOS BY CHITO A. FUENTES

Cebu's shoe capital refuses to think sunset has fallen on shoemaking

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CARCAR, CEBU—WHILE it is more popular for its native food products ampao (sweetened rice crispy), bucarillo (colored coconut candy) and chicharon (pork skin cracklings), Carcar, 40 km south of Cebu City, has been home to footwear manufacturers for several centuries now.

The footwear industry in Carcar started in the 17th century when Sotero Solon (or Mano Teroy as he was called) saw a reproduction of the famous Last Supper, which showed Jesus Christ's disciples wearing leather sandals.

Using the tree bark, used rubber tire and coconut, Solon, a resident of Barangay Liboron, made his first pair of sandals. His neighbors also made their own sandals and a few years later the residents of the barangay and neighboring areas were engaged in sandal-making. This time, they started using animal skin instead of tree bark. The footwear industry received a boost when a certain Fernando Macasero built a tannery to supply the requirements of the municipality's footwear industry.

When Venancio Medalle came up with the first pair of shoes made in Carcar in 1927, his products became popular under the brand of Venancio. Medalle and the other shoemakers also started using machines for sewing shoes.

In the 1960s, about 200 residents of Carcar were engaged in shoemaking. Jhul Antopina also set up his company MM Marketing, which produced step-ins, sandals, shoes, bags and suitcases.

Over the years, however, various constraints continue to plague the Carcar's footwear industry, such as the lack of capital, competition among the players, lack of skilled manpower and quality materials.

Despite adversities, however, Carcar's footwear manufacturers managed to survive and continue operations. They went to other provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao to market their products. For several years, the demand was more than enough, encouraging more to go into footwear manufacturing.

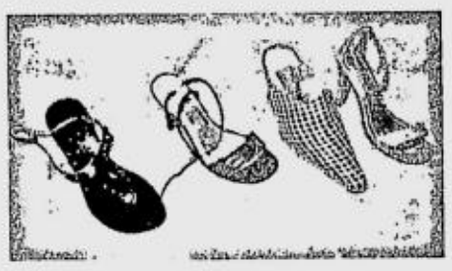
The presence of a footwear industry has helped provide employment to Carcaranons as each manufacturer employ between 20 to 70 workers, aside from providing livelihood to at least 1,000 households.

"Carcar residents are always better off than those living in other towns since they have several source of livelihood, such as the outsourcing of some aspects of footwear manufacturing," according to Mercedita Apura, owner of Detasie Shoes and treasurer of the Carcar United Footwear Manufacturers Association Inc. (CUFMAI).

However, the footwear industry is facing its biggest challenge—the onslaught of low-priced shoes from China.

"Our products are made of similar materials as those coming from China. Our only edge is quality. Our products are more durable than those made in China," Apura says.

On top of this, the cost of raw materials continues to rise. CUFMAI director Timoteo Canape says the prices of raw materials have been increasing by 5 to 10 percent almost twice a month starting last year.



ONE PROBLEM is rising cost of materials

CUFMAI, an organization of 22 footwear manufacturers, was formed about three years ago, through the intervention of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Cebu provincial office, to help the industry remain competitive.

The organization established a bulk materials sourcing to help both members and non-members bring down cost of raw materials. Another project is the construction of a display center that provides CUFMAI members a venue to display and sell their products.

While they admitted that the domestic demand has gone down considerably due to the entry of low-priced China-made footwear, CUFMAI is coming up with measures to ensure the industry's survival.

To address the China threat, CUFMAI has decided to follow the advice of DTI Cebu of using differentiation as a strategy.

Until about three years ago, the footwear industry in Carcar was enjoying good revenues. Then, the high demand for Carcar-made footwear encouraged many Carcaranons to set up their own small-scale manufacturing operation. Carcar manufacturers supply the requirements of retailers in the Visayas and Mindanao.

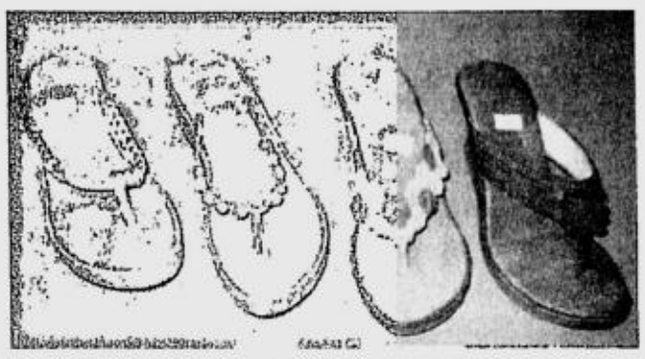
The number of footwear manufacturers rose to over 400 as some workers at existing companies saw the potential, recalls Canape.

However, the continuing competition among the Carcar footwear companies and the emerging threat of China has resulted in the closure of many firms, Canape says. At present, he says, there are less than 200 footwear manufacturers in Carcar.

Unlike the Marikina companies, which see the footwear industry as a sunset industry, the Carcar manufacturers still see good prospects, Canape says.

To ensure the survival of the footwear industry, CUFMAI is now. coming up with new product lines, using different raw materials instead of just leather, Apura says.

Apura says the CUFMAI board decided last April to come up with new products using locally sourced materials such as raffia, jute and woven buri mats.



CARCAR-MADE shoes use indigenous materials to differentiate the products.

In addition, she says, the group is developing designs that appeal to the customers, rather than producing just the basic designs.

In the past, Apura says, CUFMAI members did not consider exporting their products due to the high cost of production.

However, she says, the present situation has changed their mindset. CUFMAI is now planning to penetrate the export market.

The group sees this strategy as the most viable option to enable them to continue operations, Apura says.

Canape says the CUFMAI members have started accepting job orders for footwear from some Cebu exporters. However, he says they are no longer content with remaining as suppliers of exporters.

"Since we have the expertise in footwear making, we decided that we should go into direct export instead of going through other exporters," he says.

According to Apura, the group will be joining the National Trade Fair scheduled February next year.

"Joining this fair will help provide access to the export market since it has foreign buyers," she says.

The decision to use indigenous materials has also created additional livelihood opportunities for Carcaranons, Apura says.

At the same time, she says, the group is helping increase the demand for such materials as raffia and buri woven mats. "We are helping the other industries as well," she adds. The industry helps provides direct employment to over 3,000 workers as well as livelihood to about 1,000 households. The raffia and the buri mat come from Bohol while the jute materials come from the neighboring municipality of Argao.

Despite the constraints, Apura says the association still feels optimistic. "We still remain competitive even in the domestic market as far as our leather footwear is concerned. While Carcar-made footwear uses the same material as those coming from China, our products have better quality," she points out.

The response of the domestic consumers to the new footwear line, using indigenous raw materials also showed that there is a market for these types of products, Apura says. "They are slowly accepting these products," she adds.

The Carcar footwear manufacturers also face good prospects in the export market, since the use of indigenous materials would make their footwear products different from those available in the market, Apura says.

Local food exporters busy tapping foreign markets

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL FOOD EXPORTERS ARE busier than ever amid a flurry of international trade shows and expositions, taking every opportunity to put a foot inside the door of major markets around the globe.

Earlier this year, these companies—most of which are small and medium enterprises—displayed their products at the International Food Exhibition held in Pasay City, at the Thaifex-World Food Asia in Bangkok, Taipei International Food Show in Taiwan and Foodex in Japan.

Still, the exporters themselves as well as market experts think they have not showed enough. For example, an expert from the United Kingdom said during a visit last August that Philippine food firms should try out the UK market.

There is much to be leveraged with the ever-growing Filipino communities scattered worldwide aside from the influence of migrant populations in general. There are vast markets of people missing home and their native foods, and people living multicultural lifestyles willing to try out foreign tastes.

At the IFEX Philippines held last May, bestsellers included saluyot, laing, pinangat, pili and polvoron while fruit wines, plain and savory sandwich crackers and sardines sold well at the Thaifex-World Food Asia.

In Taiwan last June, buyers snapped up angel wings or "chicken-of-the-sea" which can be prepared sushi or sashimi style; abalone or "ear-shell," which can be stewed, grilled, or sautéed and; tropical wines with unique flavors like mango, bignay and duhat.

This time around, 12 food firms are eyeing international food buyers in France as part of efforts to promote emerging food products through the Salon Internationale de l'alimentation (SIAL) that would showcase an array of tropical food on Oct. 22-26.

The companies include canned tuna producer Alliance Tuna International Inc.; B-G Fruits & Nuts Manufacturing Corp., sweetened banana chips; Celebes Canning Corp., canned tuna; El Coco Manufacturing & Trading Corp./GSL Food, banana chips; and Florence Foods Corp., sweet preserves, virgin coconut oil, coconut milk; M. Lhuillier Food Products Inc., dried fruits;

Oceanic Exports (Manila), fruit preserves, sauces and seasonings, noodles, tropical snacks and specialties, fruit wines, food supplements, virgin coconut oil, personal care products; Primex Coco Products, desiccated coconut; See's International Food Manufacturing Corp., banana chips, dried fruits, dessicated coconut; Shemberg Marketing Corp., icepops, confectioneries; Strategic Development Cooperation-Asia, desiccated coconut macaroons; and Superstar Coconut Products Co., desiccated coconut.

Trade Assistant Secretary Fe Agoncillo-Reyes says the firms' joining SIAL offers a unique chance for them to meet over 135,000 buyers who are on the lookout for new suppliers of innovative products.

Reyes, who is also executive director of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, explains that Citem is organizing the Philippine participation in the fair this year.

Exposure to SIAL is also an opportunity for local companies to learn the consumer trends worldwide, she says.

Reyes cites the 2005 Euromonitor Report on Packaged Foods, which said that the global food consumers tend to go for healthy snacking which can be attributed to today's fast-paced lifestyle.

The report also says that the food service industry is projected to grow by 10 percent and gain importance in the retail distribution chain.

Health issues remain a priority as more and more people switch to good, organic premium goods, she says.

Reyes said exporters' growing efforts to tap an ever-widening market must be accompanied by greater adherence to global standards such as good manufacturing practices; kosher, halal and organic certifications; and the hazard analysis critical control points among Filipino food manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, consolidators and exporters.

Aside from what will be promoted in SIAL, the government and exporters have been pushing products such as premium seafood, choice coffee beans, desserts, fresh mangoes, and herbal preparations.

Reyes says Philippine fresh and processed food including canned meats and sets of restaurant meals as well as tropical fruits, seafood, and value-added marine products, have also gained a loyal following not only among Filipino communities abroad, but also from natives with preference for tropical cuisine.

Where rich Filipino-Chinese . . .

From page B1

Robinson's Land and the Manila-Xiamen International School of Mr. and Mrs. Roman Go.

The challenge before the Arroyo administration is to entice Fujian, particularly Xiamen investors, to return the favor by exploiting the ties that bind the two places.

Espiritu identifies at least seven possible areas of exchanges and cooperation that the Philippines can explore with Fujian. These are electronics and information, agriculture and fisheries, mining, sports, education, environmental protection and tourism.

Fujian's 10th five-year plan is anchored on three major industries: Electronics and information, machinery and petrochemicals. Electronics and information are two sectors where the Philippines is inherently competitive.

The two countries also share similarities in research and education. Considering that Fujian has many universities and learning institutions, which specialize in scientific research in agriculture and fishing, the Philippines and China, through these learning institutions, can share scientific technology and know-how.

The province boasts of 33 institutions of higher education and 16 polytechnic colleges that offer many avenues for teacher and student exchanges in areas such as culture and history, language, science and technology. A related area of cooperation is the exchange of teachers and students who wish to learn English and Chinese.

The mining sector could also benefit from Fujian ties.

No less than Gov. Huang has expressed interest in importing iron and copper from the Philippines. The matter has been referred to the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion of the Department of Trade and Industry for appropriate action. Fujian may, in fact, be interested in importing other materials from the Philippines.

Even the sports sector could benefit from collaborating with Fujian, which has about 1,200 gymnasiums and stadiums. Its athletes have in fact won gold medals in international competitions. The training of Philippine athletes can be an area of cooperation, in line with the desire of the Philippines to produce athletes of international caliber.

The Philippines could also learn from the environmental experiences of Fujian's provincial government, which is very much involved in environmental protection and conservation. At present, there are 64 natural reserves in Fujian. The province also maintains international environmental standards in the treatment of industrial wastewater and gas. Fujian is showing that environmental protection need not be anathema to industrial growth and progress.

In the area of tourism, tour operators and travel agencies from the Philippines and Fujian can explore possibilities of cooperation and coordination with each other in facilitating the arrangements of tour packages to each side. This arrangement may be a starting point for future expansion to cover tourism promotion to the Philippines.

There are other possibilities for exchanges between the Philippines and Fujian, which is not surprising given the ties that bind the two places. It is only a matter of making the most out of the historical and sentimental bonds linking the Philippines and Fujian.

It may seem like a tall order considering that investment conditions are more favorable in China than in the Philippines. The unstable political climate in the Philippines is in fact the main reason why more and more Fil-Chinese businessmen are opening investments in China instead of expanding.

At the very least however, President Arroyo can directly appeal to the Fujian authorities to consider the Philippines as a potential investment area if only for the fact that some of the biggest names in Philippine business today are of Fujianese descent.

President Arroyo, however, can do her homework even before she flies to China. Except for a few cases, Philippine investments are mainly concentrated in Fujian. Filipino-Chinese can therefore play a pivotal role in promoting further exchanges and establishing new agreements between the Philippines and China through Fujian.

Fujian, also known as Min, is situated in China's southeastern coastal area facing Taiwan across the straits. It has a population of 35.11 million with a land area of 121,400 square kilometers.

The province is divided into nine municipalities with 84 counties or cities at county level with Fuzhou City as the capital.

Fujian's economy has witnessed rapid development in the 20 years since China adopted opening and reform policies. In this span, Fujian set up economic and trade links with over 170 countries and regions.

According to figures presented by Governor Huang Xiaojing at the Fujian Provincial People's Congress last Jan. 18, the gross domestic products of the province amounted to $78.16 billion, representing an increase of 11 percent compared to the previous year.

The governor's report also showed that Fujian generated $27.95 billion in fixed assets and $78.68 billion in total revenues.

The province also posted a positive balance of trade with total exports reaching $34.7 billion and imports amounting to $19.5 billion. Its total foreign trade amounted to $54.2 billion.

Espiritu said these figures indicate Fujian's aggressive economic thrust.

(Editor's note: The author is an INQUIRER *correspondent based in Bohol. He was part of the official delegation, as a community journalist, to the trip to China on Sept. 18 to 20, 2006 led by the provincial government of Bohol.)*

Learn the business of event management

EVENT COORDINATING AGENCIES has a growing number of business in the US today.

The business is also a thriving one because of the Filipinos' fondness for parties and celebrations.

The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will hold a two-day seminar on "Event Management and Coordination" at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited at 9 Anonas Rd., Proj. 3, Quezon City on Oct. 21 and 22, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This course will enable participants develop an innovative and multi-skilled approach to managing and coordinating events. The topics to be discussed are corporate event, social event, weddings, etc.

Methods of training is two-day lecture, discussion, case studies, and evaluation. For interested parties, call 952-40-28; 436-78-26, 952-29-34; 913-65-51 and 951-29-66.

BEGGING among the Aetas was partly caused by the dole-out style of assistance by government and private agencies.

Aetas sell, beg to live

From page B4

fourth of the labor, says Tarosa, who reached second year in high school.

For instance, merchants buy unripe banana at 10 to 20 centavos a piece. In markets at the lowlands, a piece sells for P1 or more.

To grow bananas and harvest these after six or eight months are backbreaking tasks, especially because the *gasak* (farms) are located on steep slopes at the middle flanks of the now quiet volcano, she says.

Selling straight to consumers and selling the harvests beyond prices dictated by merchants enable them to earn more and set aside money for the next cropping season.

This also cuts their family's dependence on *sakadora* (traders who provide the capital for planting, the food that the family needs during that period. They also corner the produce and determine the prices).

"You'll be buried in debts if you go with that system," Tarosa says.

Reynalyn Cosme says Aeta women from Bamban take turns selling their crops on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The schedules had been arranged by elders in the tribe.

"Benedictine nuns have allowed us to use this space," Cosme says as she breastfeeds her son Gerald.

Not one to miss the profits, Manilyn Cosme, 14, has pitched in for her sick mother on Saturday when there are no classes. She is in grade four and is good at counting and reading the weighing scale.

At past noon on Saturday, each of them grossed sales of not less than P200. According to Reynalyn Cosme, sales are better on weekends when many attend Mass at the nearby Holy Rosary Church.

She says she and her friends have been doing direct selling here for over a year now.

Before the June 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruptions, merchants ruled the trade. These women first tried direct selling to tourists flocking to the Expo Pilipino (closed in 1999) and to shoppers in duty-free stores, both at the Clark Special Economic Zone, which is next to Bamban.

For the Angeles City venture, they pool money for the rental of a jeep that takes them to and from HFA.

Watching them deal with buyers, they've shown negotiating skills. Reynalyn Cosme haggled for a high price by saying that the papaya, about the size of a football, was sweet and grown without pesticides. The buyer agreed to buy it at P45.

When crops from their farms run short, these women sell the crops grown by other families in the village, getting commission from between 20 and 30 percent.

While these Aeta women struggled to be self-reliant, those on the Sto. Rosario side lived on the mercy of others.

Aeta elders had told the INQUIRER that mendicancy was not innate in the tribe's culture. Salong Sunggod, director of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in Central Luzon, says this was developed by the dole-out style of assistance by government and private agencies during the eruption years.

But Indung Sagin, the oldest in the group of beggars, says it was "not wrong to be asking for help from others."

"*Ing matsura ing manako* (What is bad is stealing)," she says as she herded the children away from the road. They came from the upland villages of Sapang Uwak and Planas in Porac town, north of the volcano.

A woman, who called herself Lydia, says they had to beg in the meantime as they awaited better prices for their yam. A sack used to sell for P1,400 some months ago. The going price now is P900.

"*Masanting na ing gabun pero masakit pa mu rin ing pamagtinda* (The quality of the soil has improved but it is still difficult to sell our crops)," Lydia says.

While the eruptions and succeeding lahar flows had drastically altered the landscape, the old system in agricultural production and trading has not changed, according to Aeta elders.

Lunas Tolentino, an elder in Bamban, says the Aetas have still to own their own land in their ancestral land, have the funds to improve their farming ways and learn to trade.

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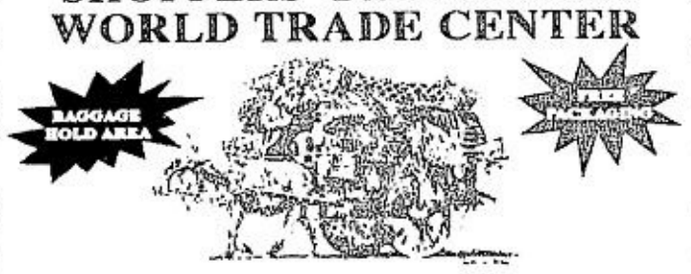

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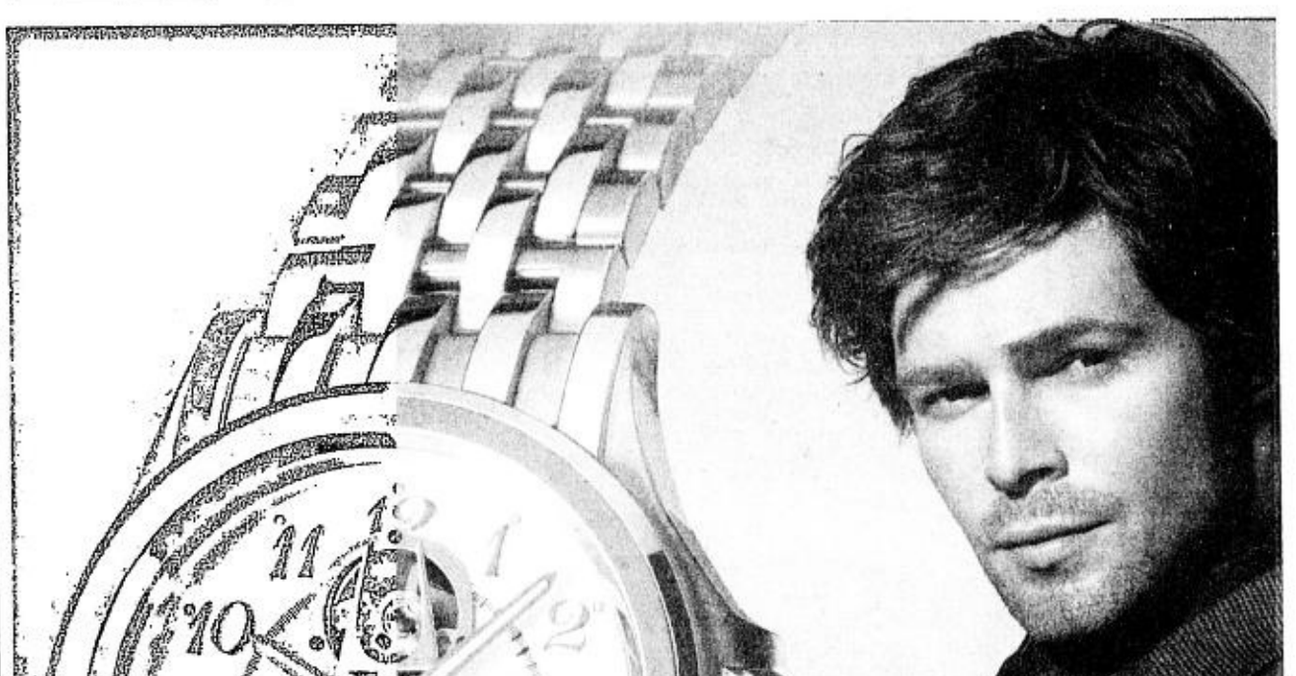

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

Sunday BIZ

AETA women sell their crops of banana, cassava, papaya and gabi (yam) while rearing their kids.

Aetas sell, beg to live

Struggling for self-sufficiency, living on other's mercy

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—Eking out a living one block away from each other in this city's commercial district, two groups of Aetas show contrasting ways of surviving in the post Mt. Pinatubo eruption years.

Ten women tending makeshift stores in front of the Holy Family Academy (HFA) on Sto. Cristo Street sell their crops of banana, cassava, papaya and gabi (yam) while rearing their kids.

At the next block, just across the Pamintuan mansion, more than 50 Aetas, mostly children, run after motorists and passersby, stretching out their palms and seeking alms.

"Mimiwas ke king utang (We're trying not to incur debts)," says Susana Tarosa on why the women in her group, all residents of the upland village of Sta. Rosa in Bamban, Tarlac, have taken to direct selling. Their village is more than 30 km north of here.

If the crops are sold to merchants who go to their village, these would have fetched lower prices, at amounts not even one-

AETAS/ B3

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Money in the Bank

By Zennon Kapron, Intel Asia Pacific Financial Services Vertical Industry Manager

Financial services companies are demanding smaller, faster, and smarter solutions. They are discovering that the same value points are addressed using new desktop technologies, without the infrastructure restrictions or inflexible structures that older, terminal based systems impose. Better performance, better manageability and more security all help front-office staff perform their jobs - and deliver the responsiveness demanded by today's banking customers.

There has been a shift towards a more complete customer experience and convenience. In many banks, tellers are required to perform cross-selling activity at the window, without relying on a separate set of advisors for every sales opportunity. This new approach relies on staff being able to quickly access and analyze customer information. A teller needs a single source of truth when it comes to information on the customer's position and their financial lifecycle.

However, older terminals at many banks are unable to present a single window into customer data. A text-based terminal cannot provide prompts, flag new special offers to the teller, or suggest other products that fit the customer's profile.

A new breed of high performance PCs can now help tellers be more proactive. They can run a host of specifically-tailored marketing applications-ideal for on-the-spot up-selling or cross selling opportunities at the first point of customer contact

Financial advisors in bank branches also benefit from highly specific yet compute-intensive applications similar to those used at capital markets firms. Financial advisors can now use these applications to increase customer visibility, improve cross-selling rates and increase wallet share

High-performance desktop PCs also offer access to real-time customer views and account value positions. Using connected PCs, immediate access to information that can help bank staff seize short-term market opportunities and make best-case recommendations to their clients.

Financial services firms require tremendous amounts of computing resource to handle all transactions, local and international, demanded by a range of customers. The ability of high-power PCs to link into existing global networks provides a new range of flexibility and responsiveness, particularly for Internet banking and account management, which need constant customization to stay fresh These channels demand the highest levels of security; a need that only technology can fulfill in today's complex business environments

Customer responsiveness goes beyond front-end applications. Highly scalable infrastructures are required to efficiently connect the customer to the global financial industry. If a system can display multiple product offerings at the branch position, but cannot quickly access the data and decision support it needs, business opportunities vanish and customer satisfaction suffers.

Dual-core processor-based desktop PCs employ advanced management and security techniques that create an unprecedented combination of agility and capability. With this new breed of powerful desktops, staff can enjoy a responsive experience as they multitask across multiple demanding applications while bank security and management tasks continue to run in the background

Secured transactions amounting to million of dollars and exposing confidential client data are transacted on a daily basis Using new hardware platforms, software experts have collaborated with hardware R&D teams to solve security issues posed by desktop machines. Increased user access to the compute kernel requires extra vigilance.

Now, critical security applications can run in the background in a virtual partition while users are working on compute-intensive tasks within the standard operating system (OS) environment. This approach keeps vital security processes isolated from potential OS security compromises and ensures they are isolated from threats such as viral emails. Updates and security management can even be managed while the machine is powered down for maximum convenience and firewalled safety.

IT managers have already welcomed this new approach to security. It brings remote management techniques to the desktop that previously only existed on servers.

The New Solution

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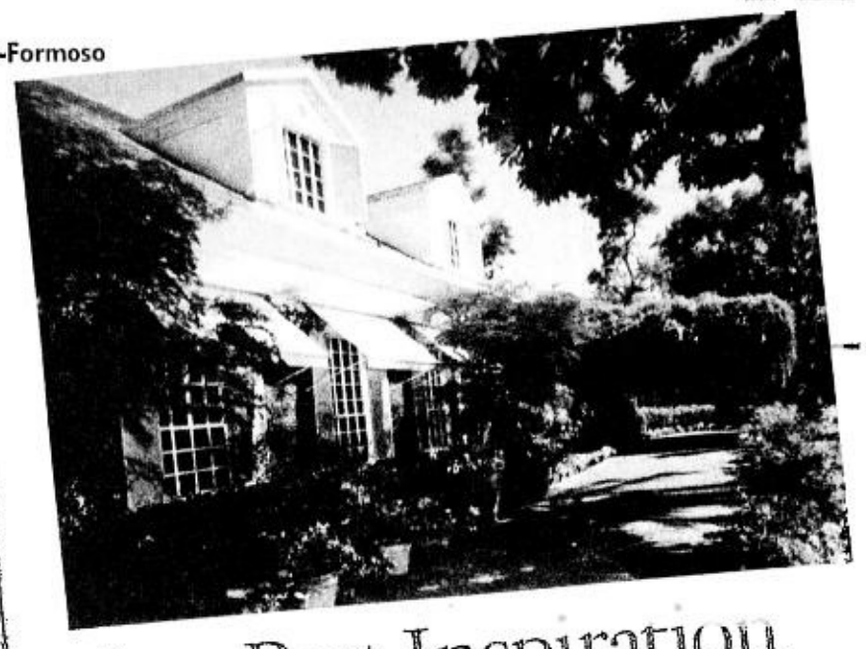
These hardware innovations, when combined with industry software solutions, offer unprecedented manageability, security, and energy efficient performance together with reduced operating costs and increased user-level functionality. Intel AMT can even manage, inventory, diagnose, and repair PC's when they are turned off or experience OS or hard drive interruptions.

ADVT.

Sunday LIFESTY
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or e

Whose house is it, anyway?

An English country-style home in RP is featured in the Architectural Digest



One Part Inspiration

A DESIGNER GOES FROM MUSE TO MAKER IN THE PHILIPPINES

INTERIOR shot (far left) and starting page (above) from the Architectural Digest distributed locally by Emerald Headway

THE BIG APPLE, IN SMALL BITES

Ronnie Alejandro

AN ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE in Manila? Why not?

But whose manse is it?

We don't really know. All we know is that it has been decorated by "Prince of Chintz" Mario Buatta.

We don't even know where the house is exactly located. From the nine-page feature article in a recent issue of Architectural Digest, it seems the English country-style home is located in one of the exclusive gated communities either in Makati or Alabang.

Buatta has also done a Manhattan pied-à-terre for the same owner, said to be a businessman.

Another Buatta fan commissioned Buatta to do a four-story pied-à-terre with a winter garden and a magnificent view of Central Park. The couple's bedroom landed on the cover of the Architectural Digest back in the '80s!

Location, location, location

Manhattan's booming real estate is the name of the game. Remember the Filipino general whose family was caught bringing thousands of dollars to the US and later was found to have invested in Manhattan properties? They must have made the right decision. With the real estate on the upswing, Manhattan has become an enclave for industrialists, trust-fund babies and Wall Street heavy hitters.

The poor and the middle class are banished to the outer boroughs or across the rivers. The most coveted place de jour is the Time Warner Building at Columbus Circle where the *über* rich and famous have their pied-à-terres with the Mandarin Hotel as their room service kitchen.

Is thin in?

Weight issues were noticeable at the recently concluded Fashion Week in New York. Wafer-thin and frail models had been banned at the Madrid Fashion Week, but anorexic Lolitas were the toast of fashion editors, photographers and designers in Milan.

A Big Apple executive at a modeling agency said, "This is an industry of beauty and luxury, not famished-looking people that look pale and sick."

Do fashion shows really perpetuate an unhealthy image of beauty, encouraging eating disorders among young women?

Restaurant as theater

If you want to experience restaurant as theater, try any of the huge, ostentatious, cavernous and theatrical Asian-fusion gastronomic temples that have mushroomed in NYC. Buddakan, Spice Market, Megu, Morimoto, Ono, Chinatown Brasserie and the recently opened Japonaise.

These culinary destinations not only provide food with visual appeal but also a touch of exoticism.

Fat is out

From no-smoking to no-fat and other restrictions, Gotham is grappling with today's mounting concerns for health, lower calories and higher nutrition. Determined to make New Yorkers healthier, the city unveiled more regulations for its more than 20,000 restaurants and bars to make cooking with artificial transfats a thing of the past. Other restrictions being considered are limiting restaurant-goers to no more than two glasses of wine or two pints of beer with dinner, would you believe?

Across the river, New Jersey lawmakers plan to propose legislation that will ban the distribution and sale of foie gras (duck and goose liver) in the Garden State. It has been the subject of legislation from New York to California, and its production is already banned in several countries, mostly in Europe.

And glamour is in

At the opening of the Met's opera season, *le tout* New York came in full force for the premiere of British filmmaker Anthony Minghella's production of "Madama Butterfly."

One observer noted that the audience had returned to an elegance in dress after decades of anything-goes-style. One boxholder doyenne even came with her secretary as train-bearer, à la Santacruzan!

This was a major coup for the new imaginative Met manager Peter Gelb, who is determined to return one of the city's greatest cultural assets back to its people.

For the hoi polloi, the performance was transmitted live on giant outdoors screens in Lincoln Center and in Times Square. But the black-tie audience was offered a complete opera instead of traditional operatic excerpts. Will this upstage the traditional grand opening of the Fall cultural season at the other Met (Metropolitan Museum of Art) this month?

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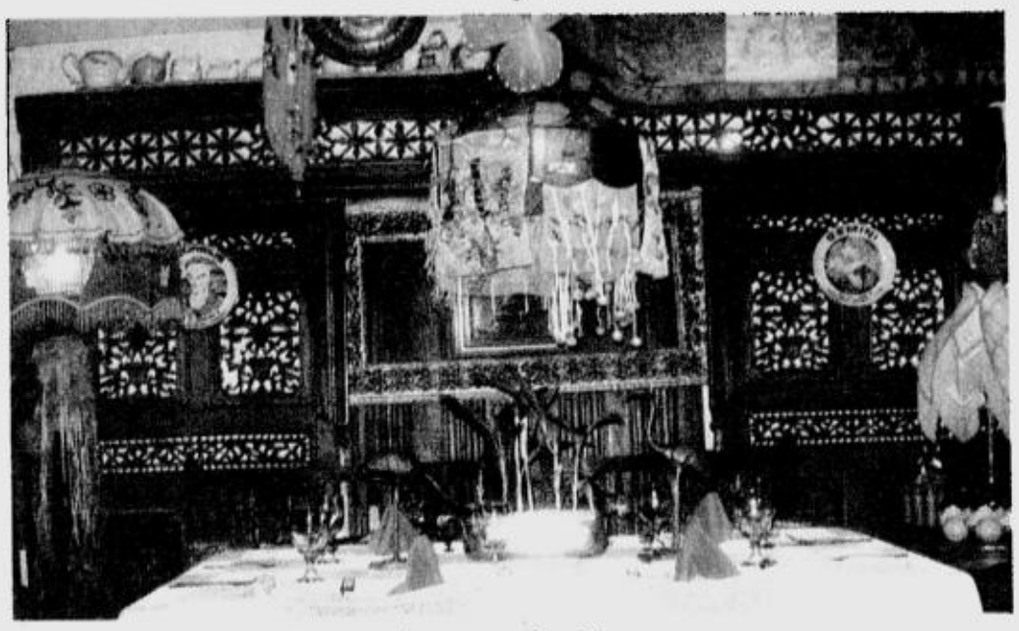


AMBIENCE is one of abundance, perhaps even of surfeit.

LARGE bronze bell, with an ornate piece attached to it for striking, adorns a wall.

Ahh, the bells, the bells

By Doris Trinidad
Contributor

UNLIKE THE TELEVISION character who collects souls, this one collects things, beautiful antiques and artifacts he encounters in his travels all over the world.

By the time he had accumulated enough items to last him several lifetimes, he decided to retire, relax and enjoy life surrounded by his travel mementos. Interesting as he seemed to be, I did not have the opportunity to meet him right away.

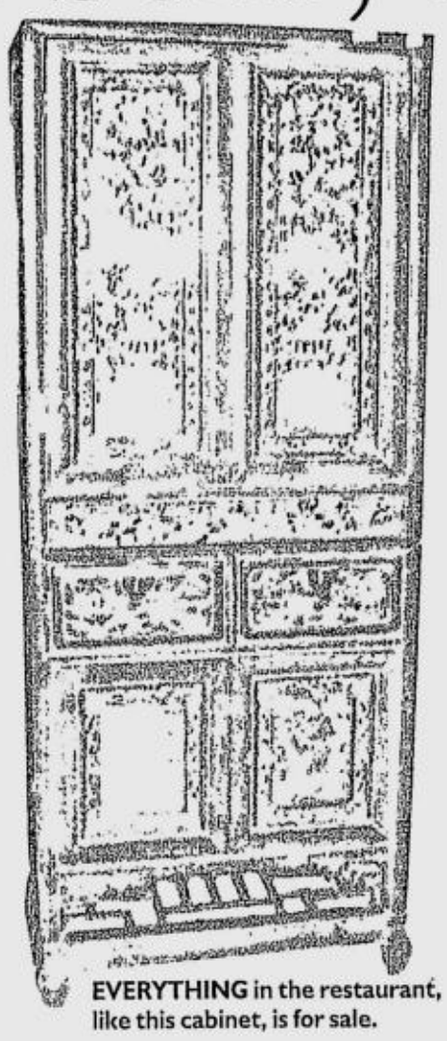
I must begin my recounting several weeks earlier when my son and his family—including myself—went looking for a place to have lunch, preferably somewhere we hadn't been to before. We found this place in Mandaluyong with a rather discreet signage, Café Juanita, and thought we'd try it.

The buffet table looked inviting and we were told we could also order a la carte. We settled in, prepared to relish the entrées.

The food didn't disappoint; but, apart from the simple yet delectable cuisine, something about the place intrigued us and sparked our curiosity.

Surfeit

The ambience was one of abundance, even surfeit. One would perhaps describe it as overdone, what with tiffany lamps hanging over every table and from sundry corners, statuary guarding nooks and crannies, antique cabinets bursting with delicate porcelain, an exotic headboard reminiscent of opium beds serving as a portion of wall, gossamer Indian shawls draped over the backs of chairs.



EVERYTHING in the restaurant, like this cabinet, is for sale.

One has to move very carefully lest one trip over or topple some Eastern deity scowling on a corner.

Before settling the bill, my son asked a waiter who the owner of the restaurant might be and was told the place was owned by Dr. Efren "Boy" Vasquez and the eclectic items surrounding us comprised his personal collection.

The waiter added the surprising information that everything in the restaurant was for sale! That's right, everything—lamps, chairs, crockery, statuary, the wall if you fancied it, the bells...

Ah, the bells. And thereby hangs another tale.

As it happened, this son of mine had of late developed an inordinate fondness for bells. We joked about it and called it his "bell phase."

It started with his having been attracted to bells being peddled along streets leading to Buddhist temples in Japan, where he is stationed. He bought one for his home, then bought another to give to me, followed by others when his sister, an inveterate antique lover, visited him.

Destiny

Once, when we were in Greenhills, a certain grouping of bells caught his eye and forthwith he bought it. And now at Café Juanita, in what seemed like a stroke of destiny, there was this large bronze bell, looking very old, hanging on the wall before his entranced gaze. There was even an ornate piece attached to it for striking.

He asked the waiter how much it cost. He was told the price. He mulled it over, not too long, and told the waiter to wrap it up for him. On the opposite wall was another bell, which looked like a twin of the one he had bought. Luckily for the keeper of the purse—his wife—he thought one bell was enough.

At home, while installing his precious find near the main entrance, my son noticed some words etched on the bell: "*Qui me tangit vocem meam audit*." Dredging from two years elementary Latin ages ago, I translated the words to mean "Who touches me hears my voice." My son was mystified by the words and then and there decided to buy the other bell, the twin of the one he had bought.

The man

On his next home leave he called up Café Juanita with intent to buy the bell but was told it had been sold a while ago. Crestfallen, he nevertheless made an appointment to meet Dr. Vasquez because he felt like knowing more about the man and his fascinating collection.

EASTERN deities are positioned on corners.

After delivering babies and cultivating the rich and famous, Dr. Efren Vasquez now lives an almost reclusive life, enjoying his impressive antiques collection

So we returned to Café Juanita and met Dr. Vasquez and found him to be an amiable man who displayed a wry sense of humor as he talked about himself.

"I was a social climber," he confessed. "I loved hobnobbing with the so-called elite, those whose faces often appeared in the society pages."

He is a medical doctor specializing in obstetrics and gynecology and was based at the Makati Medical Center. After so many years delivering babies and cultivating the rich and famous, he decided to turn around and live an almost reclusive life just enjoying his antiques and artifacts. When the opportunity came, he opened a restaurant and named it after his mother Juanita.

Perhaps it was logical that he found the restaurant to be the ideal place to display his priceless collection.

Five years ago he started selling items in his collection to those who would love them and take care of them. "It hurts to part with them," he said, "like parting with your children."

Adjacent to Café Juanita is another eatery, also his, which he named Gusto, where the same food but with less diversity is served. What gives it a different twist from the average *turo-turo* is that the clientele likewise partake of their meals amid a plethora of antiques and valuable bric-a-brac as in the more pricey place next door.

Dr. Vasquez has become a believer and advocate of mind power after several fortuitous happenings in his life when things and people came and fit into his plans after he focused his mind on them. He also believes that like-minded people with an affinity of interests gravitate toward each other.

"Like we did," he said. My son beamed total agreement.

Good heavens, was he seeing more bells in the future?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **CAIRO COLLAR**

ACROSS
1 Kiddie vehicle
6 Bikini half
9 Rustling sound
14 Sitcom actress Graff
19 Salon rinse
20 "— -hoo!" ("Hey, over here!")
21 Poets' Muse
22 Bedouin
23 Start of a riddle
26 Posh apartment
27 Existed
28 Wrestler's surface
29 Sunday dinner
30 Lallygag
31 — Lankan
32 On fire
33 Holder of holy water
34 Daisy relatives
35 Riddle, part 2
43 Total failure
45 Actor Tamblyn
46 Minimum wage, e.g.
47 Notes after sol
48 — Jose, CA
49 Ill-bred guy
50 Actress Charlize
51 Riddle, part 3
57 "— go bragh"
58 Hyatt, e.g.
59 Marksmen, at times
60 "There's — in the Bucket"
61 Vladimir Nabokov novel
64 — -Mart (retail chain)
65 Repaired
66 Drink cooler
68 Get married
69 Tenants' payments
71 Letter sender
73 Stravinsky and Ivanov
75 Roman "Censor"
76 Riddle, part 4
81 Melodious
83 T-man, e.g.
84 Electees
85 Jay of NBC
86 Rock that's a source of element #28
88 Hindu queen
90 Married on the fly
92 End of the riddle
95 See 100-Down
96 Grand Ole —
97 Rank above cpl.
98 104-Across, for one
101 Circus clown Kelly
104 German vessel in WWII
106 Wonder
107 Clearasil treats it
108 Prepared
109 Riddle's answer
112 Denude
113 Streamlined
114 Its flag has 50 stars
115 Comic Rock
116 Sip
117 Die- — (bitter-enders)
118 Neither here — there
119 Wee

DOWN
1 Liquefies
2 Allude (to)
3 Complex
4 Joint with a cap
5 Musical aptitude
6 Indirect course
7 Tree part
8 Yahoo! rival
9 Another helping of food
10 Yule door decoration
11 Pet food brand
12 RBI or ERA
13 Sweetums
14 To the extent that, with "as"
15 FBI director, 1993-2001
16 Send out, as energy
17 McMillan of the NBA
18 River of Germany
24 Pal, in Malaga
25 Pressing needs?
30 Transparent plastic
32 "Star Trek" captain Jean- — Picard
33 Flora's partner
34 OR figures
36 Breathe — of relief
37 Lag behind
38 Died down
39 Low point
40 Actress Mia
41 Star, in Soissons
42 Lived in a lair
43 Sunshine St.
44 Singer Janis
48 Patron of sailors
49 Polaroid producer
52 Shouts of pain
53 School support org.
54 Perform the routine perfectly
55 Shot down
56 Winners' gestures
60 Dynamic leader?
61 Film director Denys
62 Darling
63 Tomfoolery
65 Move about restlessly
67 USMC rank
70 Accepted attribution
72 Conscious
73 Greek column style
74 Skillful lawgiver
76 Doctor promoting total patient care
77 Scatterbrain
78 Maintained a team tally
79 Vane dir.
80 Angling tool
82 Group of viruses sharing specific antigens
87 No longer in general use: Abbr.
88 Puts into a new crate
89 — -surface missile
90 Two- — sword
91 Permit
93 Encircled
94 "No, really!"
99 Remove, as a corsage
100 With 95-Across, legendary flagmaker
101 While preceder
102 Prefix with physics
103 "The red planet"
104 Pac 10 sch.
105 Dutch settler in South Africa
106 Lhasa —
107 Aleve target
109 Barbecue remnant
110 Play on words
111 Play division

answer on page 00

One-stop shopping for Filipino delicacies

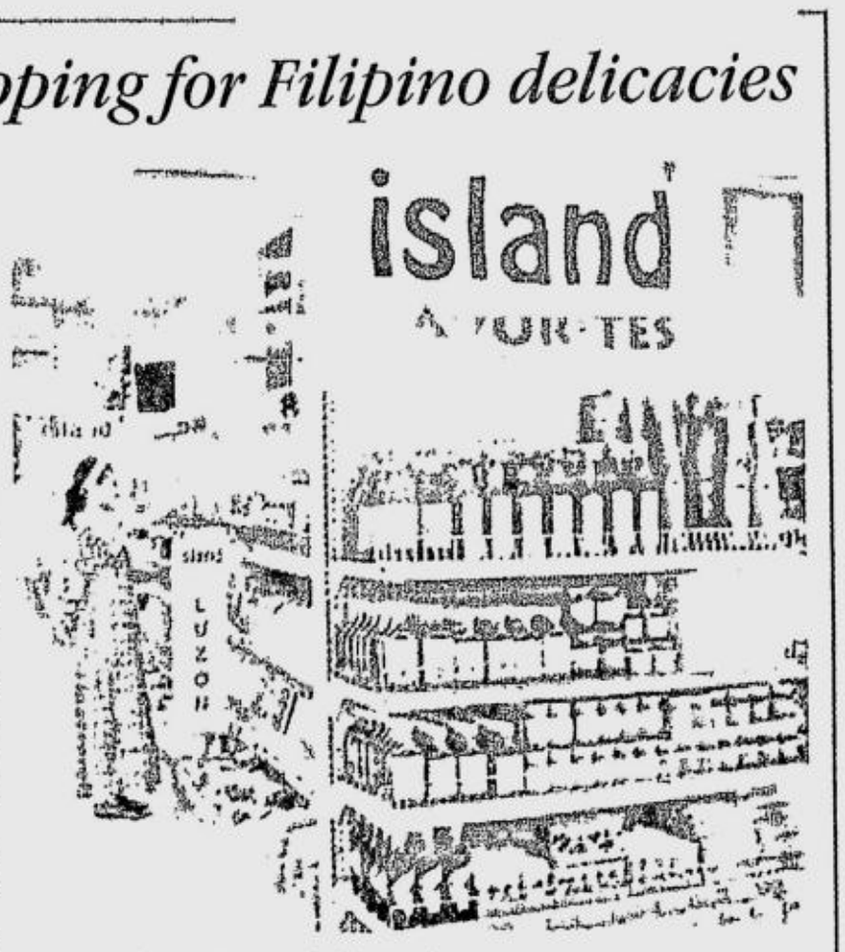
ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET'S "Island Favorites" carries an extensive array of the most popular and most-sought-after food products from different regions of the Philippines.

From Central Luzon comes original *pastillas de leche* from pure carabao's milk, *espasol de leche* and flavored *polvoron*. Southern Luzon is represented by *buko* pie, *maja blanca*, roasted *kasuy* and *puto* Biñan. Baguio has *ube* and strawberry jams from Good Shepherd while Ilocos offers *chicha-corn*. *Pili* products in tarts, cakes and puddings from Bicol are available.

"Island Favorites" also carries specialties like *puto* Manapla and *pinasugbo* from Iloilo; *otap*, dried mangoes and peanut kisses from Cebu; and *piaya* and *napollones* from Bacolod.

From Mindanao come durian and mangosteen bars, and *sukang pinakurat*.

Supermarket shelves are stacked with *puto seko, barquillos, uraro* cookies, caramel tarts, fish crackers, banana chip, *turrones de kasuy, galletas* and *masquillos*, among others. Also available is the exotic Coffee Alamid from the droppings of the civet, and wine from *duhat*, mango and *guyabano*.



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Boyfriend of six years 'needs space'

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

My boyfriend of six years broke up with me three months ago. He said he no longer deserved to be with me and he needed time and space to prove his worth.

I couldn't think of anything wrong between us. I think it started when he told me he wanted to extend his studies for another year so he could graduate from his second course.

That was not going to be a problem since we're not in a hurry to settle down. He's 26 years old now and I just turned 25.

We decided not to get married until both of us had stable jobs. Marriage is not a race after all.

He said he needed space, so I gave him about three weeks to think things through. I thought this would help him.

But my world fell apart when he declared later that it's over between us. He told me he felt insecure because I already had a stable job and happy with it while he's still an undergraduate. He said it should be the man who should be working hard and earning for our future...

I trusted and loved him so much. I never thought I'd be having the worst nightmare of my life! I tried to get him back but he said it would be better if I started seeing someone else who could provide me a good future... not someone like him who's not sure what his future would be...

I've tried to make him come back to me but he's ignoring me now. He doesn't even send text messages.

Should I hate him for leaving me? I admit I still love him despite everything. Should I forget him and totally restart my life? What if he comes back? I know I love him but I don't think it will be easy to welcome him back.

ZHIA

You have to give the guy credit. He not only tried to give you a song-and-dance on his way to the door, he even made you feel guilty by offering the lame excuse that he didn't deserve a nice girl like you—so he wouldn't feel horrible for making such an abrupt exit!

Six years of constant proximity is either eternity or a few minutes for some people.

You may have been great and good to him, but did he feel the same way? Did he love you as much as you loved him? Was he as into you, as you were into him?

Women see what they want to see and turn a blind eye to stuff they'd rather not deal with. You say you both wanted a family. Was that a choral rendition or did he just play backup to your solo?

A man in love is like a heat-seeking missile. He is always into his object of affection—no ifs and buts, come rain and high water. It is when he starts hemming and hewing, and spewing this "give me space" line that women should turn their radars on.

While you're at it, stop making excuses for him. Open your eyes, keep your ears to the ground and start analyzing closely the nuances and wordplay.

Obviously, nobody wants to be dropped like a hot tamale. That hurts! But remember, nobody drops anybody when true love exists.

So, girl, wake up! Cry, mope, scream, stay awake all night, call friends and turn your love story inside out till their ears bleed—if it will flush this guy out of your system.

Then, when you've drained all the toxicity away, get up and move on.

What if he comes back? I loved it when you yourself answered your own question!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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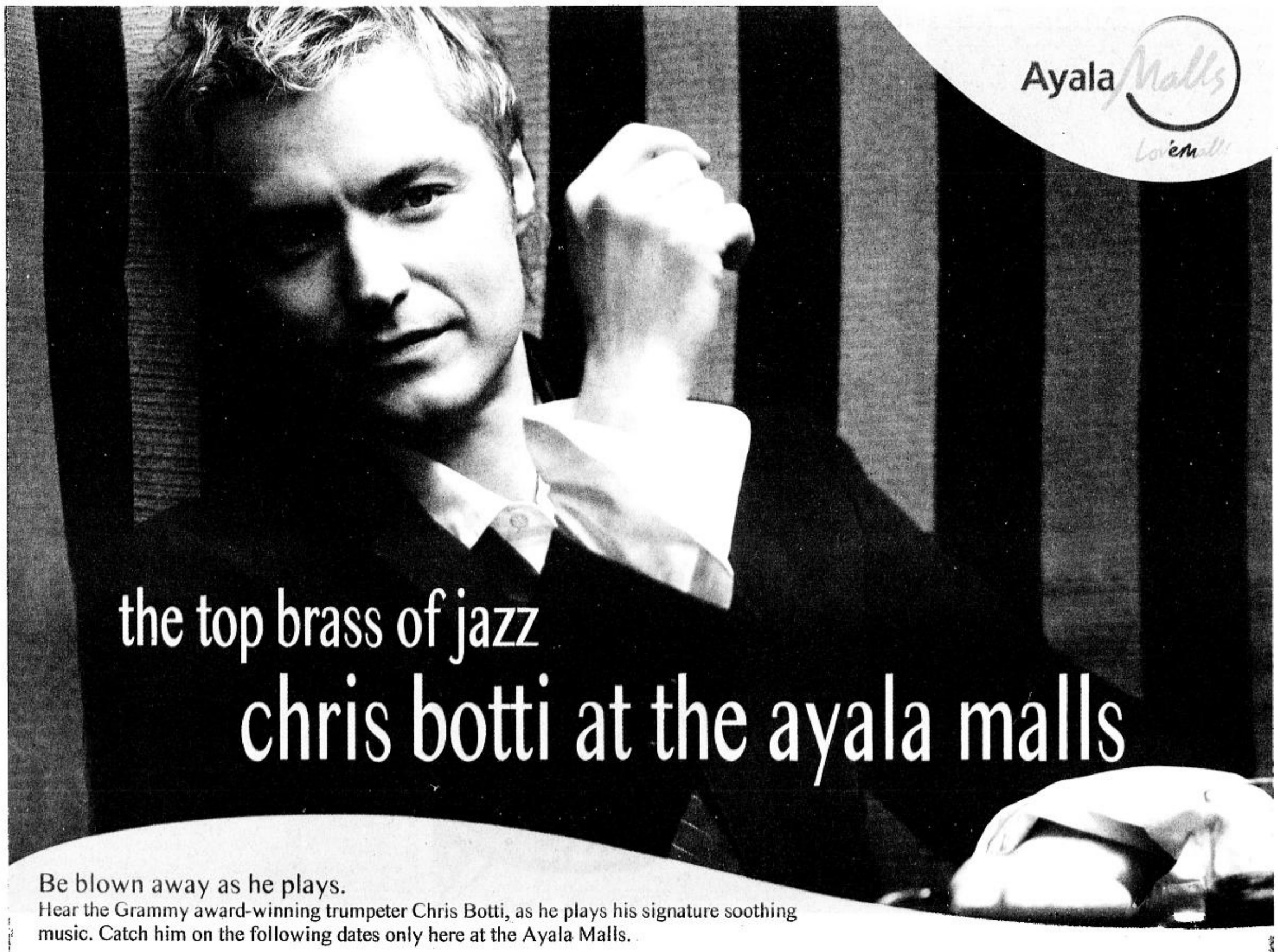

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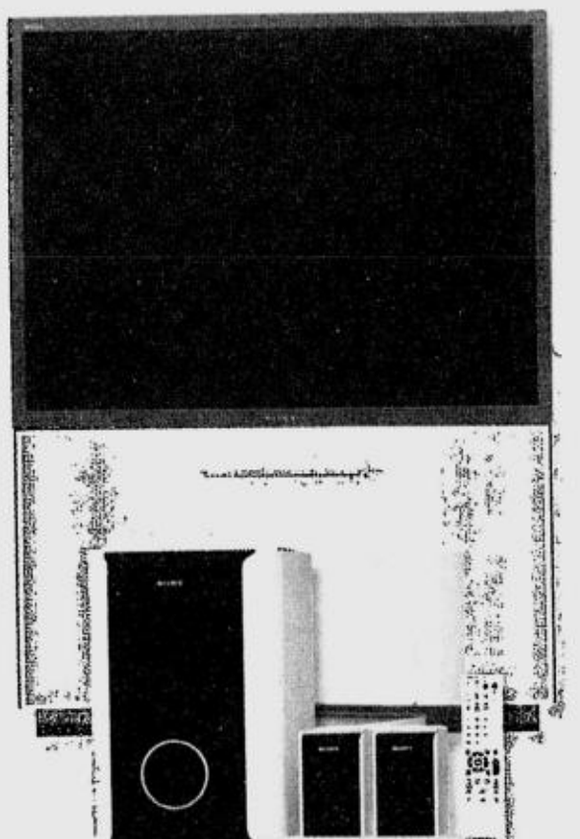

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MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales

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Cardinal Rosales' NY Mass draws 4000

THE CATHEDRAL OF Saint Patrick in New York City was packed with more than 4,000 Filipinos and devotees of San Lorenzo Ruiz. Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, with 40 Filipino and American priests, concelebrated the Mass to mark the feast day of San Lorenzo Ruiz.

The huge turnout showed that people believed in San Lorenzo Ruiz's miraculous intercession. In the Philippines, churches were also packed on the saint's feast day, Sept. 28.

At the beginning of the Mass, Fr. Erno Diaz, head of the archdiocesan Filipino apostolate, welcomed the congregation which included New York Consul General Cecilia Rebong, Deputy Consul General Melita Thomezcek, and Ambassador and Ms Lauro Baja of the Philippine mission to the United Nations.

It was one of the best attended and most impressive Filipino Masses in the cathedral in years, according to a priest assigned at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The last time there was such a crowd was when a special Mass was held in 2001 to honor Filipinos who died in 9/11. President Macapagal-Arroyo attended that Mass.

In 1984, the late Cardinal Sin celebrated Mass to promote then Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz. Singer/businessman Jose Mari Chan was *hermano mayor*.

In his homily, Cardinal Rosales spoke about Lorenzo Ruiz, who faced his martyrdom in another land with constancy of faith, an experience that today's Filipinos, "the new people of faith in diaspora," shared and could draw strength from.

In the Philippines, Fr. Artemio Fabros, assistant parish priest of Ermita Church, said San Lorenzo Ruiz was able to offer his life for God because he put Jesus at the center of his life. Fr. Fabros said, "Focus on Jesus! In every storm in our lives, there is Jesus! Be like San Lorenzo Ruiz who gave up his life for Jesus."

Renewal

The Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ the Returning King is holding "Days of Eucharistic Renewal" with Anne, a lay apostle, Nov. 19-20, at the Philippine International Convention Center and Nov. 22-23 in Iloilo. Call Vicky Borres or Chriselle Ramos at 6321001/ 03, fax 6327844 or e-mail mvborres @hotmail.com.

Lay apostle

Anne will speak about her mystical experience of heaven, her continuous journey on the path to holiness, and her conversation with Jesus she previously published in the series "Volumes" and the book "Climbing the Mountain." A wife and mother of six, she has been receiving interior locutions from Jesus, Mary and the saints for several years now.

Book

If you are single, you might want to read the book by best-selling and relationship author Bo Sanchez, "How to Find Your One True Love," to avoid the mistake of dating the wrong man.

Bo, a lay evangelist, points out that many women tend to over-spiritualize matters of the heart. Many Christian women follow the basic philosophy: "Trust in God, the Matchmaker. He'll pick the guy for you. He'll give you a husband. Don't look. Don't search. Don't do anything."

What gives Bo the authority to teach women is perhaps the fact that he is married himself.

Bo gives eight very practical tips for attracting a lifetime partner, even if you're already past 40. "I'm so tempted to give a guarantee that you'll be married within two years, if you apply what I teach," Bo laughs.

"How to Find Your One True Love" is available in bookstores nationwide or may be purchased online at www.shepherdsvoice.com.ph. It is also available in E-book form at onetruelovenetwork.com.

Bo has a weekly show called Kerygma TV at 11:30 p.m., every Wednesday, on RPN-9. Kerygma editor Rissa Singson co-hosts.

Donation

The Rotary Club of Manila South has donated one unit for the "Gawad Kalinga" housing project in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. RCMS past president John Hanna Assap handed the check to Mayor Gloria Crespo Congco. It was witnessed by past president Enrique S. Cruz, Ann Teresita V. Cruz, Ann Bernie Candila, past president Felizardo R. Francisco and GK coordinator Floro L. Yepes.

RCMS president Jorge Pingol announced that the club would conduct its annual medical and dental mission in Subic, Zambales.

Congress

The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, popularly known as the Pink Sisters because of their pink religious habit, will hold the 19th Eucharistic congress 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 2, at the St. Joseph Convent on Hemady Street, New Manila.

The Eucharistic Adorers League with Mona Lacanlale as president, has invited as speakers Fr. Poli Ty, SSS; Fr. Catalino Arevalo, SJ; Fr. Raul Caga, SVD; and Bishop Joel Baylon.

They will discuss the theme "Eucharist and Deus Caritas Est (God is love)." Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. The public is invited.

Founder's visit

The Rosary for Life Philippines, launched in 2003 at the Club Filipino, is a committed religious organization promoting the praying of the Rosary for one hour once a week for Pro-life and for people to avoid abortion at all cost.

Winifred Powers, founder of Rosary Life International, is visiting parishes and schools to spread the importance of preserving life. She is expected to be at the Tarlac Cathedral with Betty Roxas-Chua, president of Rosary Life Philippines, for the 9 a.m. Mass on Oct. 15. Fr. Melvin Castro will welcome them.

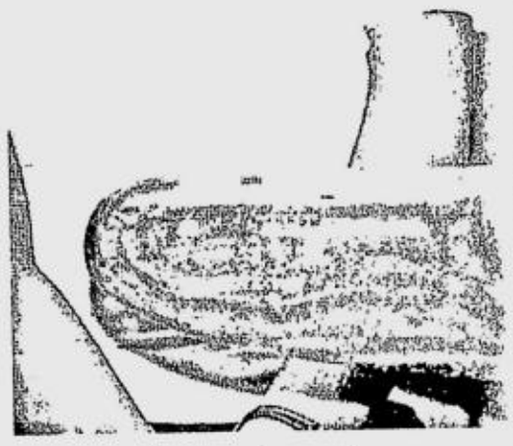
They will be at San Guillermo Parish in Bacolor, Pampanga for the 7 a.m. Mass on Oct. 20, to be celebrated by Fr. Nick Sambile.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/ city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

In a league of her own



The University of the Philippines explores an early placement program for gifted children, like 15-year-old math wiz Mikaela Fudolig

By Marian Santos-Abon
Contributor

STUDIES SAY AT LEAST 2 percent of a country's population is gifted. With a population of 80 million, the Philippines should have around 1.6 million exceptionally talented people—all veritable academic, political and economic super leaders on the make.

But even gifted children, in spite or maybe because of their superior intellect, need help to realize their potential to the fullest. Which is why the University of the Philippines is taking the necessary steps to respond to this need.

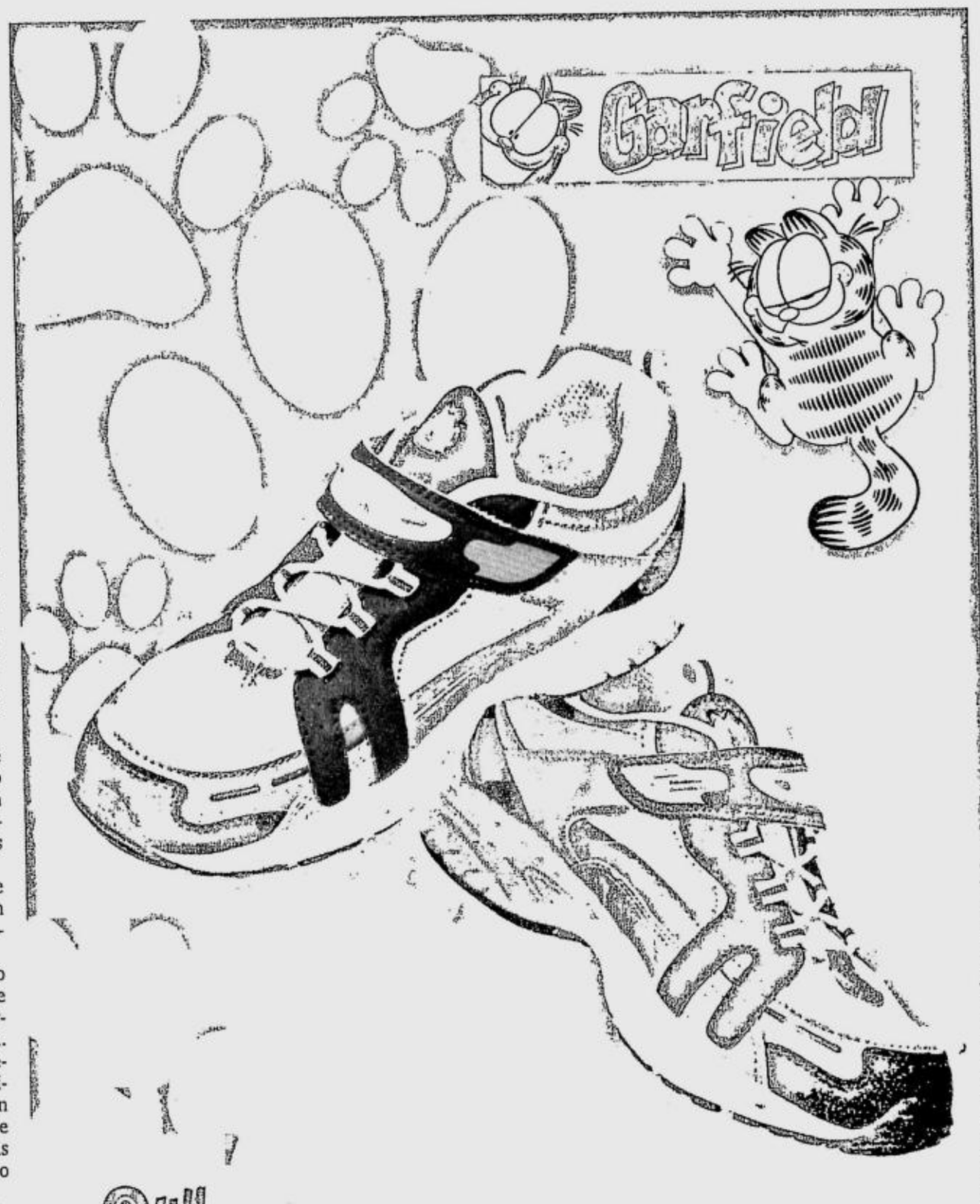
Meet Mikaela Irene Fudolig, who made history when she was admitted to UP-Diliman at the age of 11 during the summer of 2001-2002.

When Fudolig applied for permission to enroll in Mathematics 11 (Math 11), her case was referred to Dr. Leticia Peñano-Ho, former Dean of the College of Education. Peñano-Ho went beyond helping Fudolig secure admission to the university. As the president and chair of the Philippine Association of the Gifted, she was aware that there were other gifted children in the same position as Fudolig—bored in high school, raring to move on.

Thus, Peñano-Ho designed the Early College Placement Program (ECPP).

"The ECPP had a one-year trial provision to see if Fudolig could make it in UP. In the meantime, Fudolig was enrolled both in Quezon City Science High School (QCSHS) and UP so that if things did not work out well, she still had QCSHS to fall back on," ex-

IN A LEAGUE/ D4



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PHILIPPINE D
Sunday L

LULU Tan Gan and Vicky Zubiri

CHRIS and Katrina Feist

CRICKETTE Tantoco and Maricris Alvarez

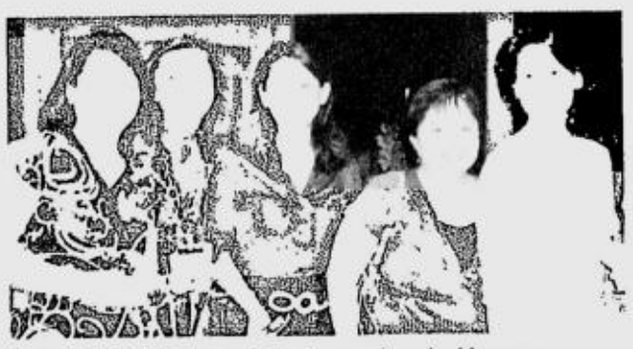
CALIFORNIA girls Annabelle Luzuriaga-Bautista and Emilie Ochoa-Petrocelli

BALIKBAYANS Lala de los Reyes-Clark, Telly Almeda Lopez-Lavy, Mailou San Gabriel, Bubut Enano-Chen and Lisa Fernandez Ponce-Enrile

CYNTHIA Almario, Arnel Papa and Ivy Almario

ASSUMPTION Velada core group Christine Carlos, Monica Francisco-Benares, Dr. China Reyes-Castillo, Popsie Gamboa, Dianne Pardo-Aguilar and Dr. Eileen Alikpala-Cuajunco

HIGH-SCHOOL gang Dr. Liaa Cojuangco-Bautista, Mailou San Gabriel and Sandy Harper-Franklin



VISITING from abroad. Dr. Reena Lantin-Hermoso, Christine Carlos, Lyra Rufino-Maceda, Maripi Jalandoni and Betta Gallego-Kramer

From Divisoria to

My 'balikbayan' friends were simply amazed at how far their dollars could go in this place, and they totally got the hang of retail purchasing at wholesale prices

TODAY IS MY WEDDING DAY. All right, all right. Not really but, well, it sure feels like it is since today is Old Girls' Day in Assumption College. My batchmates and I have been preparing for this 25th anniversary of our high school graduation for the past five years. That's even more time than I spent preparing for my wedding!

One key difference is that this Velada literally involves a cast of thousands! It's impossible to list everyone, but there are batchmates, co-celebrators, sponsors, spouses, children, suppliers, printers, videographers, directors, choreographers, costume-makers, set designers, carpenters and so many other people who have worked to ensure that this is an unforgettable milestone.

The final week has just been chaotic, what with the monumental rehearsals squeezed in between entertaining our *balikbayan* classmates. It's in our Filipino DNA to be more entertaining when a visiting friend is in town.

Amazing shopping

I am always so proud to be Filipino whenever I am with *balikbayans* and have the chance to tour them around our urban jungle. Where do I bring them on their very first day? Our very own... Divisoria! Together with the 168 Mall, Divisoria is the epitome of Pinoy bargain shopping. My friends were simply amazed at how far their dollars could go in this place, and they totally got the hang of retail purchasing at wholesale prices.

The Philippines is also being promoted as a spa destination. In line with that, I took my closest *balikbayan* high-school friends, **Annabelle Luzuriaga-Bautista**, **Emilie Ochoa-Petrocelli** and **Isabel Lacson**, to Urban Spa at the Shang Mall for a whole afternoon of pampering. I treated them to a Luxury Scrub and Urban Spa's newest service, Hot Stone Therapy Massage.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Urban Spa has an ongoing promo with American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card, where one can enjoy complimentary treatments when signing up for the relaxation and wellness packages. The Double Membership Rewards Points program is a wonderful option in time for Christmas. Everyone loves some pampering to knead our stresses away.

After that short, shameless plug, let me return to the topic of *balikbayan* entertainment. A *lechon* must be on the agenda, so aprés spa, I hosted a dinner catered by Elar's Catering, known primarily for their *lechon* and Pinoy dishes. Personally, I don't eat meat, but the *lechon* was so good there wasn't even enough leftover to make *paksiw*.

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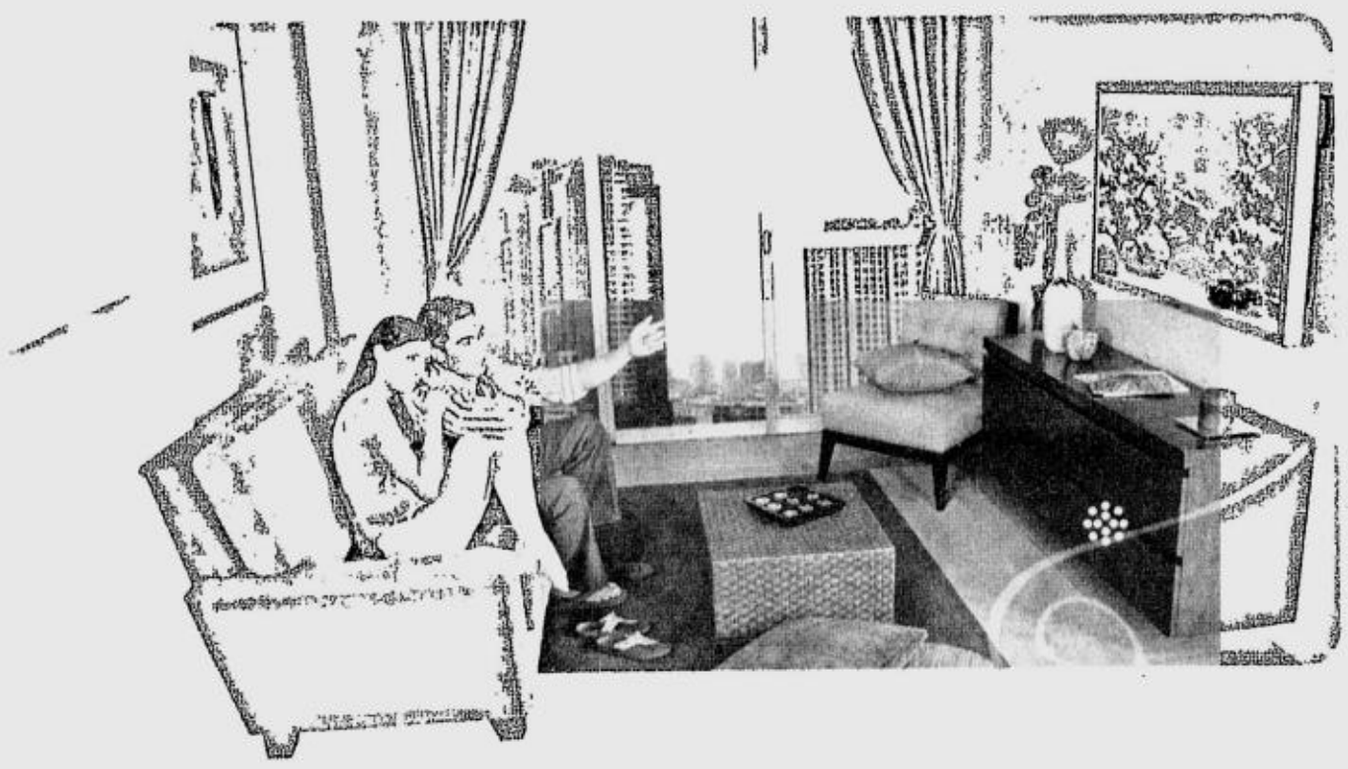

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Per BIR - NCR Permit No. 4659 Series of 2006

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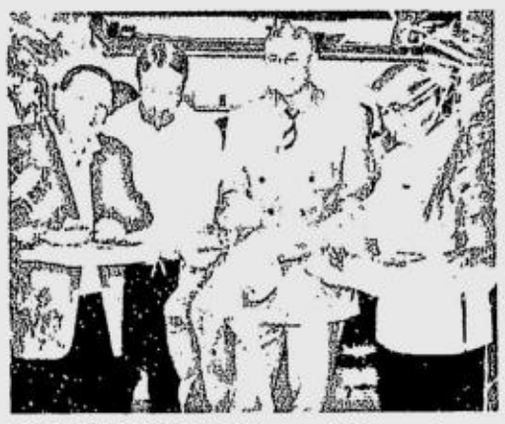
Velada

ASSUMPTION HS '81 *balikbayan* classmates come home to celebrate the Velada and enjoy Filipino food.

CANADIAN Manufacturing new bed linens designer Rajo Laurel and owner Ravi Daryanani



THE WERDENBERG Group of Companies (Werdenberg, Euro-Swiss, Santis, Carpaccio, Bianca's) celebrated its 20th Anniversary Oct. 10 with a grand party. VIPs cutting the ribbon are Werner Berger, Heinz Nipp, H.E. Amb. Peter Sutter and Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin.

CHARINA Zaragoza and Conrad Onglao

BED linens expert Angeli Hemandas and Liza Cuenca

party, I noticed we have so
our high-school batch. We
81, the era of "Saturday Night
's Angels" and an explosive
o. Hence, a good number of
l for greener pastures abroad.
's great to be briefly reunited
Silver Anniversary.

ing

e hectic homecoming sched-
managed to focus on my IN-
nd grace many other social
he week with the Metrowear
d by Samsung and HSBC, a
turing **Lulu Tan-Gan, Katri-**
nd **Jun Escario.**

Knits herself, Lulu Tan-Gan,
signature material into yet
with bejeweled accents in a
s as Poetic Charm. Her mod-
l-inspired collection was de-
odern-day working woman.
re all snappily tailored, fea-
e buttons and brooches use-
d evening affairs.

n outfit to wear and, in a nice
arrived with fashion-forward
Quiñones, who then styled
nsformation after coming di-

Flamenco dress rehearsals
Grey. Sheering and pleats
ate that romantic look of a
g medieval times.

day was the 20th anniversary

SAM, daughter of Lulu Tan Gan

party of Werdenberg Corp. Owner of the very popular Santi's Delicatessens, **Werner Berger** celebrated the occasion with a blessing of one of his buildings. Among his new ideas was to convert a walk-in freezer into an ice bar. Guests were provided ski jackets and served vodka on an ice bar with ice carvings made by artists from Mandarin Hotel.

My toes and the rest of my body were virtually frozen, so I just had a couple of shots of vodka and left. Now I know how it feels to be a slab of meat. I think I would rather be roasted or skewered than frozen!

Chic merchants

This weekend, please support the "Tickled Pink" bazaar at The Loft, Rockwell. This first-ever bazaar staged by the non-stock, non-profit, breast-cancer advocacy group I Can Serve Foundation needs revenues for the funding of its nationwide products and campaigns for breast-cancer awareness.

I remember last year, Swatch generously donated a percentage of its sales to this worthy cause. Now, a dozen and a half chic merchants, mostly local exporters, will sell never-before-available items at the bazaar, and all at reasonable prices.

The "Tickled Pink" lifestyle bazaar will feature clothes, accessories and houseware. One of my favorite fashion jewelry suppliers, Avatar Accessories, will showcase the latest designs of **Butch Carungay** of Cebu, a good friend and fellow fashionista.

Discerning individuals should also check out bed linens from Canadian. The country's top bed-and-towels manufacturer recently commissioned multitalented fashion designer **Rajo Laurel** to come up with his own collection of Canadian bed sheets and covers. The denim, casual chic collection is now available at Our Home Shops at most SM malls.

It's wonderful to shop and be charitable at the same time! With Christmas knocking at our doorsteps, we should all head to the "Tickled Pink" Bazaar. See you there!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

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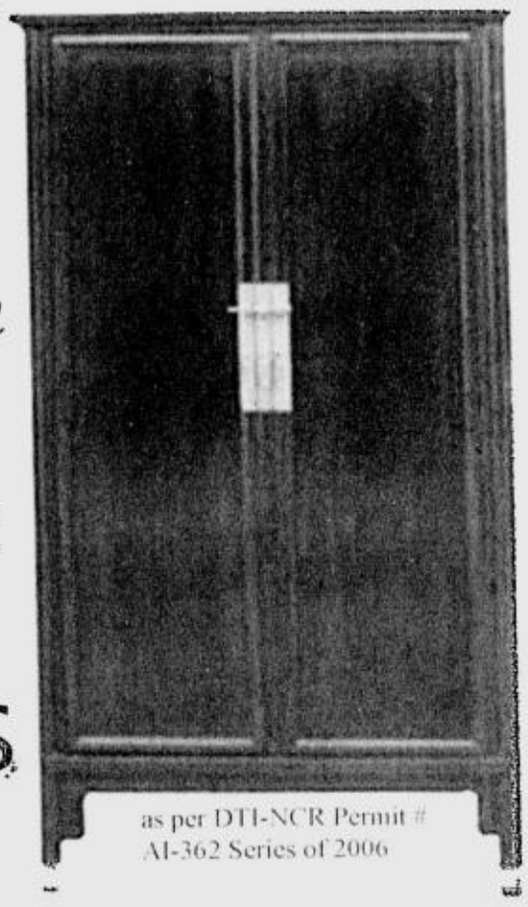

as per DTI-NCR Permit # AI-362 Series of 2006

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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 4689 Series of 2006

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In a league of her own

From page D1

plains Peñano-Ho.

For her part, "That one-year trial helped me cope with life at UPD not only intellectually but, more importantly, emotionally," says Fudolig.

Fudolig passed the trial year with flying colors, proving that she could become a full-fledged UP student. For two semesters in 2002-2003, she successfully finished all her courses with grades that could have earned her a University Scholar standing, the highest academic distinction awarded to UP's undergraduate students. She was then only 12 years old.

After the successful one-year trial, Fudolig wrote former UP-Diliman Chancellor and current UP president Emerlinda R. Roman to consider her request to continue in UP as a bona fide college student. Her parents helped her by writing a letter in March 2003 to former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, requesting that she be admitted to UP without a high-school diploma, and without taking the Upcat (University of the Philippines College Admission Test).

On May 20, 2003, at the 1,117th meeting of the Board of Regents, Fudolig's admission to UP was approved—the first such case of its kind in the entire country.

At present, Fudolig is a BS Physics student at the National Institute of Physics (NIP). She hopes to graduate next semester when she turns 16. At NIP, she has no trouble conversing with her older classmates.

"My family discusses everything around the dining table so I'm probably more prepared than some of my classmates for adult topics," she says.

But why physics?

"Physics combines two disciplines—math and physics—into one and I suppose I naturally gravitated to it. It was the NIP that took me in when I applied. During that time, Dr. Caesar Saloma was the head of the NIP and he told me that even if I was only there for the ECPP experiment, they would take me in."

She appreciates the value of diversity, especially within her Theoretical Physics research group, which, according to her, "... is composed of very interesting people with very diverse interests and personalities. This diversity has given me an appreciation of being different. I am at home here."

The group is headed by Dr. Jose Perico Henson Esguerra, the first child prodigy accepted into the university. Doctor Esguerra was admitted to UP at an older age, 13, and was placed in a different program, the Perry H. Esguerra Development Program, which was designed for him by former UP President Emmanuel Soriano in 1984.

Fudolig admits she has no plans yet for after graduation.

"I'm 15 now, but I will be 16 by March next semester. Maybe some opportunities will come that I might just throw away if I have fixed plans."

However, she is certain that given the chance, she would want to teach at NIP someday.

"NIP is the premier institution of physics in the country. It has given me much and I'd like to give something back."

Mag offers 'Best of Everything'

DISCOVER THE BEST in family getaways, beauty buys, fine restaurants, and a whole lot more in the October 2006 issue of Good Housekeeping.

Where's the best place to go to for a vacation? What's the best restaurant to go to for a nice, sumptuous dinner? What's the best beauty buy that's worth every penny?

Good Housekeeping attempts to answer these questions with its "Best of Everything" list—from the best getaway spots to restaurants, beauty buys, cooking tips, money advice, and more.

The October issue also features acclaimed singer and theater actress Lea Salonga on the cover. She talks about becoming a new mom, how proud she is to be Filipino, and about forgiving her father after a decade-long rift.

Don't miss the jampacked October issue of Good Housekeeping, now available at all magazine stands and bookstores for only P100 per copy.

Drops of Life

REPLENISH WITH EVERY DROP

Proper hydration means getting the right amount of liquids into our bodies. It is an important aspect of our health, as we simply cannot function properly without constantly replenishing lost fluids. In normal conditions, thirst is our guide to know when it's time to hydrate. However, what our bodies can't tell us is what beverage to drink.

REFRESH YOUR BODY WITH EVERY DROP OF COKE

Recent health studies have shown that all beverages hydrate the body, so it is more a matter of quantity than a specific drink. Choose beverages that you enjoy. And what can be more enjoyable than an ice-cold Coca-Cola? Always keep a beverage within your reach. Keep one at your desk, your car, or your bag, for a quick quench. Our bodies absorb all the water it can from whatever we take in, which means that it naturally makes every drop of Coke a valuable contribution to proper hydration.

MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT

Make sure that everything you eat and drink boosts your health because when it comes to hydration, your body makes every drop count. Grab a Coke and raise a toast to a hydrated body. We at The Coca-Cola Company live to provide you with every product that will satisfy your different and changing hydration needs. We understand that you make every drop of your efforts count, and our role is to keep you enabled in meeting your desires. We make every drop count, for you.

HYDRATION IS NOT ALWAYS SPELLED H-2-O

Keepir he boc ıydrated is key to good health. People say that eight to twelve glasses of water a day uld do the trick That'ᵉ a lot of drinking. And sometimes, we do lose count. The good news is, according to health researches wate is not the only source of hydration. Yes, even beverages like Coca-Cola can hydrate ou. Now you can spice up your repertoire of fluids by opening a bottle of Coke. It's made up of wate with all the nice stuff you enjoy that refreshes both body and soul. That's right, hydration can be spelled as (Get every drop back. Drink up!

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SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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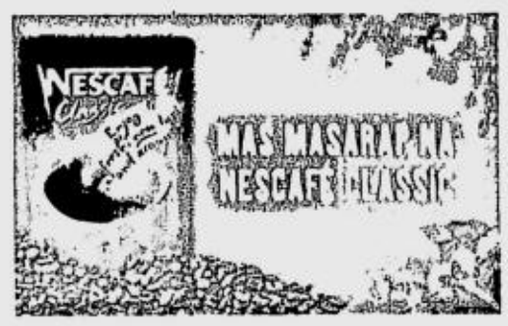
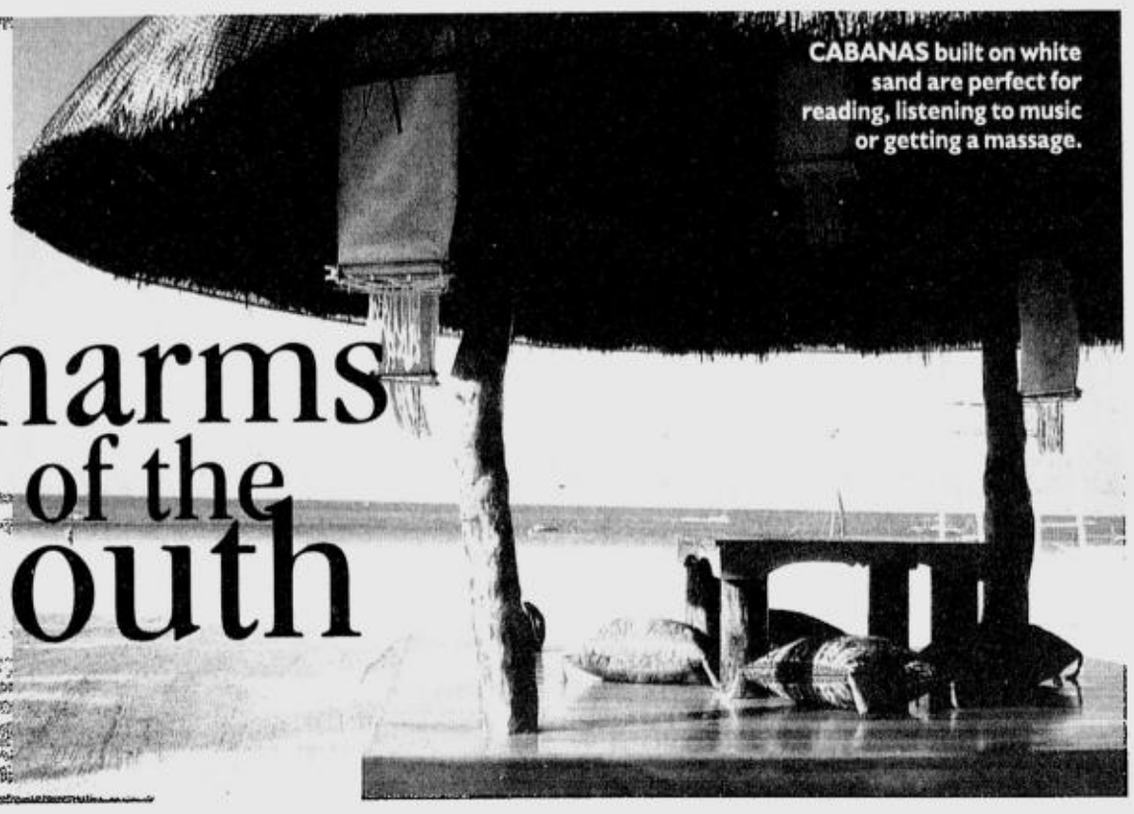
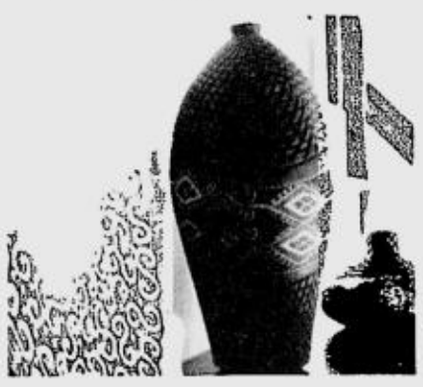


Charms of the South



CABANAS built on white sand are perfect for reading, listening to music or getting a massage.

SUR'S two superior beachfront rooms come with lots of space and private balconies facing the beach.



DELIGHTFUL folk art and handicrafts from Mindanao give Sur a unique charm.

THE NEW SUR Beach Resort in Boracay offers a gentle, refreshing respite from the chaos of the city—and even from the noisier sections of the island.

There is neither loud music nor hard drinks at Sur—only the sounds of the wind and the sea, and lots of room to unwind in.

Opening into the beach are a sunny, welcoming lobby and dining area. A few meters from the water, lazy cabanas are built on the white sand. A spacious roof deck offers a spectacular view of Boracay's sunset. And the grounds are dotted with pocket gardens.

Sur is the place to go for peaceful and relaxing holidays. But of interest to guests, too, is Sur's distinctive decor.

True to its name and tagline "Charms of the South," the resort offers exquisite samples of folk art and handicraft from Mindanao—*t'nalak* fabrics and earthenware, batik pillows, and indigenous musical instruments.

Sur has 10 cozy and thoughtfully furnished air-conditioned rooms, each equipped with hot and cold water, a refrigerator, and cable television. Rooms range from cozy doubles at P4,000 per night to large beachfront suites at P7,000 per night. Rates include a set breakfast with a home-cooked feel.

Sur Beach Resort is developed and managed by Sorestrella Development Corp. Call (036) 288 6844, fax (036) 288 6843 or e-mail surboracay@gmail.com

LIGHT and air flow unobstructed into Sur's sunny, welcoming lobby—perfect for lounging around on lazy afternoons.

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the Supermeat

FIRST-CLASS treatment. A demonstration of Cathay Pacific's new first-class suite

WALKING on air. The fashion show provides not just a look at the flight attendants' changing uniforms but Cathay Pacific's rich history

Flying on diamond wings

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

Cathay Pacific celebrates its 60th anniversary with a grand gala event, in-flight treats and future innovations that will change the way people travel

CATHAY PACIFIC TRACES its roots to 1946, when American Roy Farrell and Australian Sydney de Kantzow started the airline with two DC3 aircraft "Betsy" and "Niki."

Betsy's maiden flight as VR-HDB carried 2,000 day-old chicks in cartons. Worried that the heat might stifle the little birds, the crew let the chicks out of the boxes. "Immediately, the cabin was crawling with birds. It took us ages to collect them after takeoff," pilot Peter Hoskins shared with Gavin Young, the author of "Beyond Lion Rock: The Story of Cathay Pacific Airways."

Air travel has gone a long way since Cathay Pacific's birth as an airline. From two aircraft to a fleet of a hundred, the airline now flies millions of passengers to 90 destinations around the world. But their passion for service has stayed the same. Over half a century later, Cathay Pacific still shows the same dedication to the comfort of passengers, animals included.

According to Discovery, Cathay Pacific's in-flight magazine, last year, they transported 30,059 live animals—including cats, dogs, llamas, snakes, lizards, horses, sheep and 400 squirrels. In the past, they've flown a baby elephant, millions of bees from Australia, seals, dolphins and even a whale. This year, they've flown cheetahs and tigers and are set to fly giraffes before the year ends.

Cathay first flew from Manila to Hong Kong on Nov. 9, 1946 and has been bringing Filipinos to Hong Kong and beyond since then.

Big party

"This is a very proud moment for everyone associated with Cathay Pacific as we celebrate the 60th birthday of Hong Kong's airline, an airline that has grown from humble beginnings to be widely acknowledged to be one of the best in the world," said chair Christopher Pratt.

And how does an airline celebrate 60 years of growth and milestones?

With a really big party.

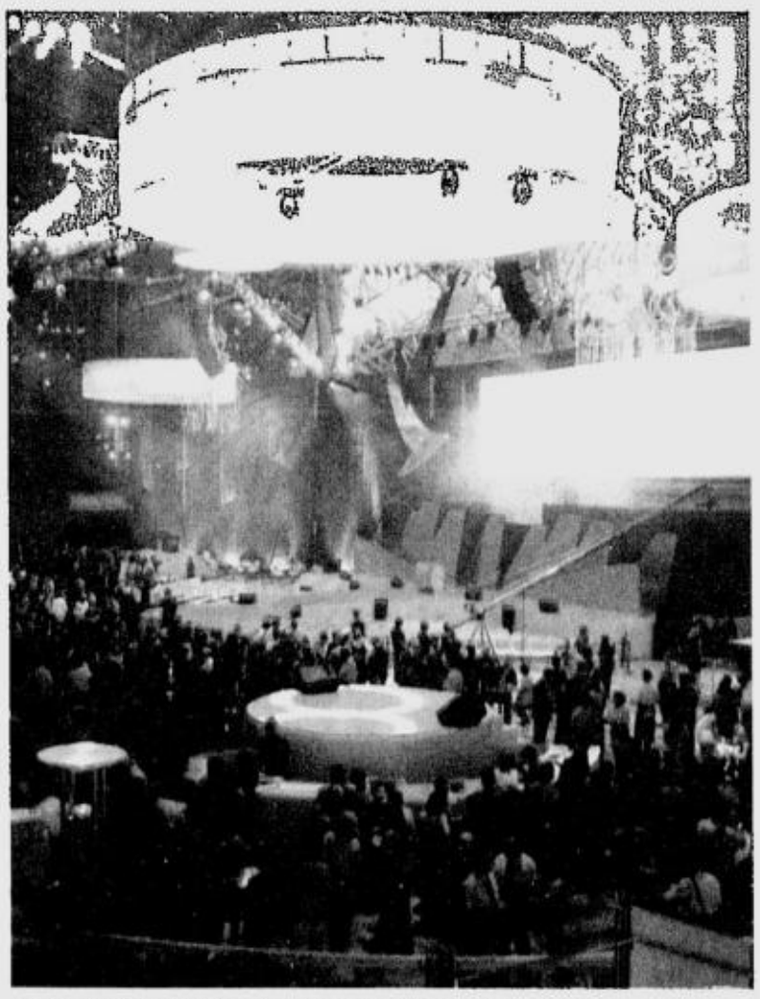
Over 3,000 people, headed by Donald Tsang, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, headed to the exclusive Sha Tin Racecourse for a grand gala event.

The party, dubbed "On Diamond Wings," was a celebration not just of Cathay Pacific's rich history but of the airline's commitment to serving its passengers and playing a big part in Hong Kong's future.

Buffet stations were set up all over the venue, drinks overflowed the whole evening, musicians played while hanging in mid-air, magicians surprised guests with all sorts of tricks, performers from different corners of the globe grabbed the spotlight and pretty girls in sparkly gowns walked around giving people glittery airplane wing tattoos.

MAGICIAN surprises a guest with card tricks.

IT WAS a night of brilliant characters and colorful personalities.


OVER 3,000 come to celebrate the airline's special night.

Million milers

Philip Chen, Cathay Pacific's chief executive, gave awards to 11 Marco Polo Club Million Milers—passengers who have each flown more than three million miles with Cathay Pacific.

Former Cathay Pacific chair Duncan Bluck also honored three of the longest-serving Marco Polo Club members who joined in the 1960s.

One of the event's highlights was the "Walking on Air" show which showcased a parade of the cabin crew's stylish uniforms from the past 60 years, including designs from Hermes and Nina Ricci. It was more than just a fashion show, it offered a closer look at Cathay Pacific's history, complete with videos and music that matched each decade.

But the event's climax was the sneak peak at Cathay Pacific's newest in-flight innovations. Guests watched with bated breath as details of Cathay Pacific's cabin design revolution were unveiled.

In-flight innovations

Cathay Pacific's new economy-class seat promises to redefine passengers' expectations of economy travel.

Not only has the cabin been transformed into a more modern and relaxed environment, passengers will also enjoy more leg room, thanks to the first airline slim seats.

The literature pocket was relocated for maximum knee and shin clearance.

Aside from the LEAPLive Back technology that offers posture support, the first-ever fixed-space economy-class seat also allows people to recline their seats without intruding on passengers seated behind them.

The head and neck rest, which can be tilted at different angles, eliminates the need for inflatable travel pillows. In-flight entertainment is made even more enjoyable by individual nine-inch TV screens.

Passengers flying on Cathay Pacific's new economy class will enjoy their own defined space—a breakthrough for economy travelers.

Business-class travelers are in for a treat too. Cathay Pacific's new business-class cabin will feature completely enclosed, adjustable all-aisle seats, which can be converted into totally flat beds providing a more personal, private space for business travelers. Thanks to US-based B/E Aerospace, the seat's ergonomic design also boasts of a two-way massage feature that can aid blood circulation during long flights. Passengers have access to their own stowage space, a 15-inch screen that is adjustable for all viewing positions, a noise-reducing headset and a 110 AC power supply for personal electronic devices.

First-class suite

But the biggest news that night was Cathay Pacific's new first-class cabin, which was unveiled with fireworks.

"Imagine the most opulent, private travel experience possible," the hosts said. "Forget first-class seat, think first-class suite."

Cathay Pacific's new first-class cabin increases individual privacy and recreates the ambience and convenience of a five-star hotel room.

The new first-class seat, which was designed by Contour, a UK-based aircraft seat manufacturer, can be used as an arm chair, a chaise lounge or an extra long and wide bed. The plush mattress, duvet and lumbar massage function add extra comfort while flying.

The suite can be converted into a work station, with subtle lighting, three working surfaces and in-seat power.

Each suite is also equipped with enough stowage space for all cabin baggage and a highly adjustable personal television. The suite also has enough space to allow you to dine with a friend during meal times.

The upgrade is the result of the airline's desire to provide a better all-around flying experience for passengers in all classes.

"The design brief was to create a cabin environment that is both natural and soothing and at the same time very well-appointed," said Cathay Pacific's product manager Sarah Blomfield.

FLIGHT FASHION evolution. Flight attendants model their ever-changing uniforms.

CATHAY Pacific's Catering Services caters to over 30 airlines, producing more than 17 million meals a year.

GUEST signs on a message wall.

The new innovations, which are the result of Cathay Pacific's collaboration with leading transportation consultant Design Q, will be installed from 2007-2009.

High-flying treats

Cathay Pacific fans who were not able to attend the gala event should not fret—they can join the celebration with other treats the airline has cooked up for them. Cathay Pacific's In-Flight entertainment features the 60th episodes of well-loved television shows like "Will and Grace," "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "That '70s Show."

Gift items like aircraft models, retro bags, retro T-shirts and uniform dolls are available in-flight or at www. shop.cathaypacific.com.

For its anniversary, Cathay Pacific is also giving its passengers Best Chinese Food in the Air, a tie-up with a number of Hong Kong's top Chinese restaurants that will last until December.

At the gala, Pratt said, "We must look back at the first 60 years but keeping in the spirit of Hong Kong, we must keep looking forward."

And for Cathay Pacific, forward means continuing the legacy of Betsy and Niki, flying on diamond wings and letting passengers sleep on the biggest beds in the sky.

Visit www.cathaypacific.com.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

CATHAY Pacific's Cebu manager Eddie Kong and Zee publisher Eva Gullas

PERFORMERS from France wow the audience.

FLYING musicians. The music sweeps people off their feet—literally.

Singing all the way back to RP

THERE ARE OVER SEVEN MILLION documented Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and perhaps twice as many have already settled in foreign countries all over the world, everywhere between Alaska and Australia.

As a chef, Nitoy Garcia has fulfilled his dream of working at some of the finest hotels located in first world cities like New York City, London, Paris and Tokyo. Although now accustomed to living in the First World, he still finds himself pining for what may seem peculiar to some of his co-workers who may have never heard of such things as *danggit* or *tinapa*, *barako* coffee and *pandesal*.

These memories stir such a strong longing for home that he often dreams of turning into some busy street corner and suddenly finding himself just a few blocks away from home.

Perhaps, nothing spells Filipino warmth more than the gatherings that abound with all sorts of Pinoy delicacies, laughter, and endless bouts of singing. With the Wow! videoke microphone and its Wow Philippines built-in picture backgrounds of famous Philippine tourist destinations, one can revisit the homeland anytime and anywhere you may be.

No wonder, the Wow! videoke microphone has come to fore as a tool for Sing Along Tourism, as OFWs bring it with them to their work destinations, and their singing, more often than not, results in the creation of close ties with workers of other nationalities.

So what better way to take a bit of the Philippines back with them, than with a Wow! videoke microphone—known nationwide as the best selling Magic Sing.

Hangad marks 15th year with free concert

HANGAD CELEBRATES ITS 15TH year this month with the concert "Labinlimang Hangad," Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Chapel, Ayala Center, Makati City. Admission is free.

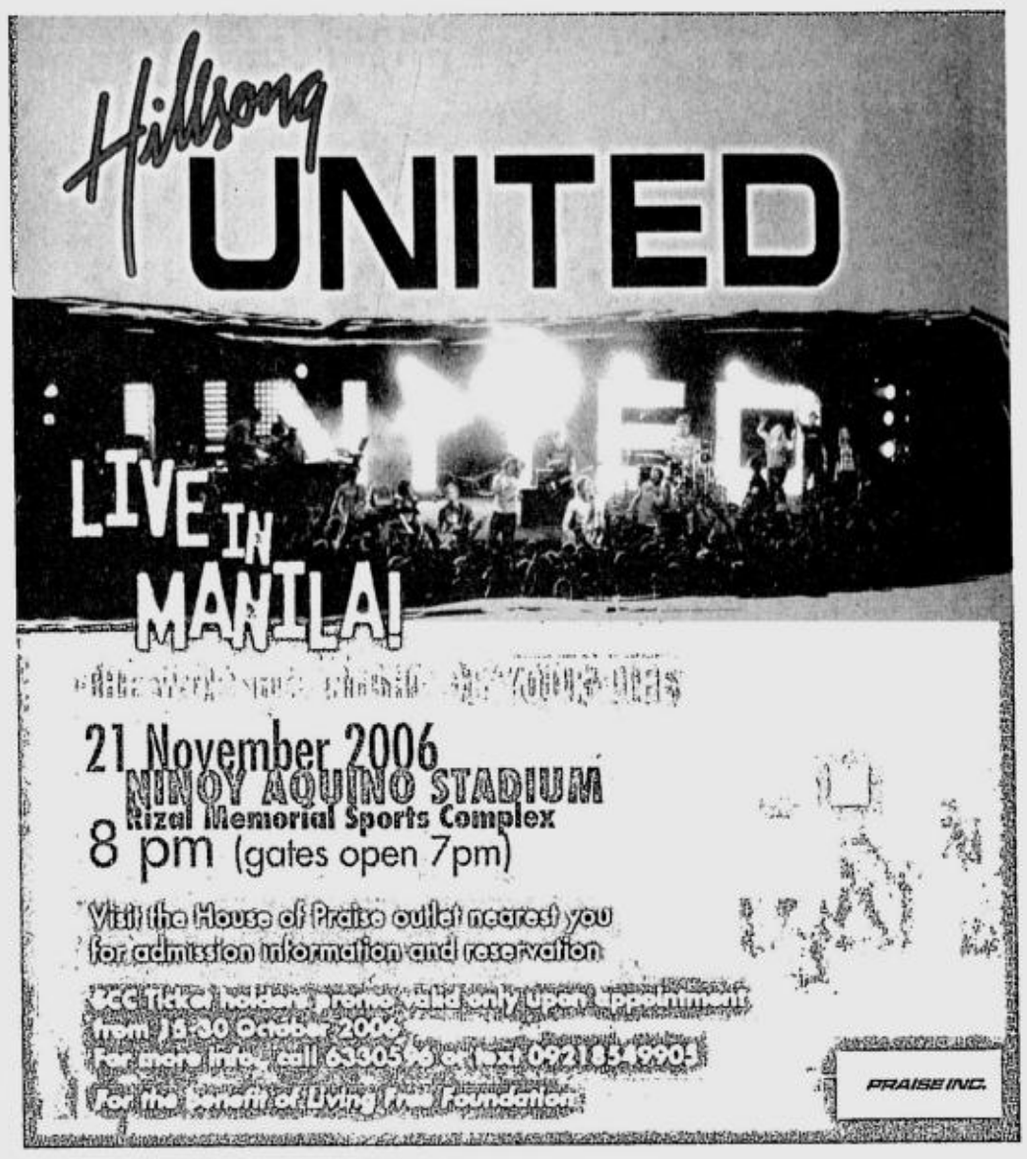
The group consists of students and young professionals bound by a desire to help others know God through music.

It began in 1991 as an all-male choir for the Ateneo High School's Days with the Lord retreats. They were joined two years later by an all-girl choir from the School of the Holy Spirit. It now has over 60 members.

It has recorded four albums so far under the Jesuit Music Ministry: "Hangad" (cassette 1998/CD 2000), "Hangad a Cappella" (2002), "Pasko Naming Hangad" (2002), and "The Easter Journey" (2005). It has also produced three music videos: "Pananatili" (2000), "Magnificat/Ang Puso Ko'y Nagpupuri" (2005) and "Simeon's Canticle" (2005).

It received a special citation at the 2005 Catholic Mass Media Awards for "Simeon's Canticle" and won Best Inspirational/Religious Song at the 2006 Awit Awards for "Pieta: Awit sa Paanan ni Hesus," a track in "The Easter Journey."

Visit www.hangad.com or e-mail mail@hangad.com.



COMBATING DISEASE WITH LAURIC ACID

Essential fatty acids are needed for physical growth, mental development, and maintenance of the vitality of life. Lauric acid is a medium-length saturated fatty acid that can only be obtained through diet, making it an essential fatty acid. It has been found to offer benefits in fighting disease-causing microbes, treating liver disease, and even fighting cancer.

In the human body, it can be formed into a substance known as monolaurin. Monolaurin can destroy the outer coating of lipid-coated bacteria, viruses, and even protozoans, and thus results in the death of the disease-causing microbe.

Lauric acid is abundant in two sources: human breast milk and virgin coconut oil.

Breast milk is rich in lauric acid and this is believed to be responsible for the immunity passed on by the mother to her infant when she breast-feeds. The lauric-acid composition of breast milk is dependent on both the mother's nutrient stores and on her diet. When the diet is rich in lauric acid, the amount of lauric acid in breast milk can be tripled, thus transferring more protective nutrients to the baby. For lactating mothers living in places where coconut oil is consumed regularly, the lauric acid composition of their milk could go up as high as 21 percent.

Virgin coconut oil (VCO) comes from freshly harvested organically grown mature coconuts that are only subjected to low heat, preserving most of its nutrients. Through the antimicrobial properties of its high lauric-acid content, virgin coconut oil can help boost the immune system. Added to its benefit is VCO's capacity to help a child develop and grow. In a local study of children three years and above, VCO has been found to help improve their appetite and sleeping habits, increase the stamina or energy level, and regulate bowel movements.

Breast-feeding is ideal and indicated for infants until two years of age. However, a child's need for protection does not stop when he reaches his toddler years. And with the increased immunity provided by a mother's breast milk, what better way to supplement a child than with something similar to the content of a mother's milk-virgin coconut oil.

ADVT

SEAIR-TIGER PARTNERSHIP
South East Asian Airlines (Seair) has signed a contract with Singapore's Tiger Airways to promote Philippine travel and tourism, boosting Seair's regional market presence. Seair will lease from Tiger two brand-new 180-seater Airbus A320 aircraft for domestic and international trips. Present at the signing were President Macapagal Arroyo; Tony Davis, CEO Tiger Airways; Iren Dornier, chair and co-founder, Seair; Olma Inocentes, president, Seair; Nikos Gitsis, executive director and co-founder, Seair; Victor Luciano, president, Clark International Airport Corp; and Tomas Lopez, co-founder Seair.

Special travel packages

Engrande Travel and Tours is organizing a three-day Ilocos trip, Oct. 27-29; and Banaue tour, Nov. 3-5. Itinerary for the Ilocos trip includes the beaches of Pagudpud, the Malacañang of the north, old churches, and Vigan, the Heritage Site. Travelers can bring home shirts, Ilocos *longganisa*, *sukang Iloko* and chichacorn delights. Call 8510361 or 0921-9796165; e-mail engrandephils @yahoo.com.ph.

Lakeside towns tour

Inscribe Tours is conducting on Oct. 21 a tour of Rizal, Laguna and Quezon lakeside towns. The tour starts in Angono, with breakfast at the Balaw-Balaw Art Gallery. Included the itinerary are visits to Nemi Miranda's atelier, Blanco Museum and the studio of Carlos "Totong" Francisco III, grandson of the late National Artist Botong Francisco. The tour ends in the shop of Ugu Bigyan in Tiaong, Quezon. The potter will conduct a demonstration. Call 5758370 and 8405912.

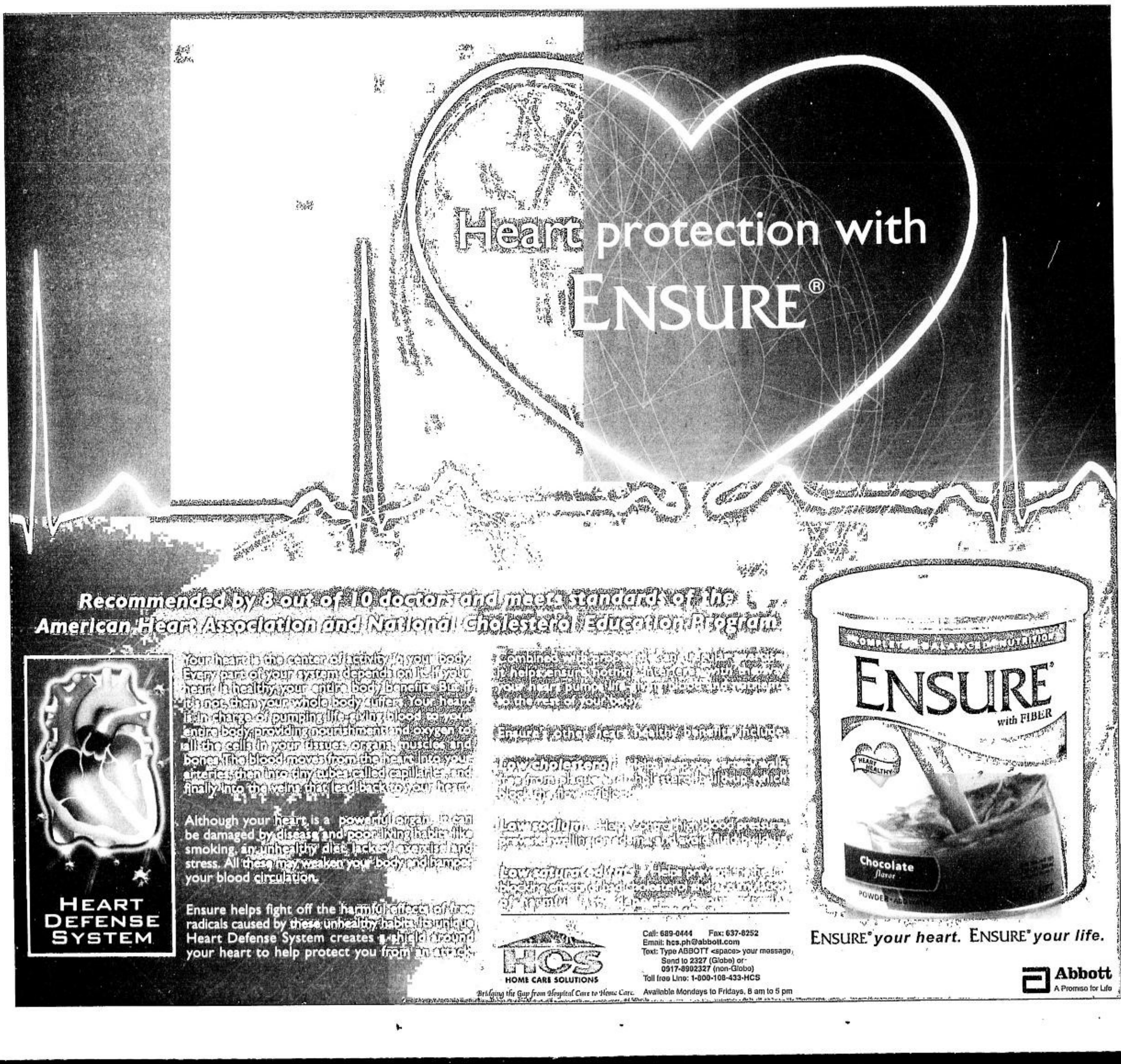
Winning trip

The Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines (STB-P) is holding Shiok! Singapore II, an initiative specially for Filipinos. Travelers can win prizes if they travel to Singapore not later than Dec. 15. "Shiok" is a popular Singapore-English word that expresses a great experience, a wonderful feeling of excitement or satisfaction. Now on its second year, the promo is available to Filipinos who travel together to Singapore in groups of three or more. Groups must leave not later than Dec. 15 and must return together, staying for at least two nights in the Lion City. Call STB-Philippines at 8130946; SilkAir RoyalWinds at 2326211/ 2326218; and SilkAir Davao 2211039/2216430.

Medical tourism promoted in Taiwan

The Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) recently sponsored a medical tourism familiarization tour for members of Taiwanese media. The activity was in support of the government's campaign to promote the Philippines as a preferred destination for health and wellness, medical tourism and as a retirement haven. The group, consisting of Chen Wei-Ling of Apple Daily News, Wei Yuan-ling of Travel Trend News and Ding En Hao of ETTV visited The Farm at San Benito in Tagaytay, Asian Hospital & Medical Center, Belo Medical Clinic, Dentista, Inc. and Asian Eye Institute. Meco director Isabel Golamco led the group.

HOME OF WWE SUPERSTARS
The Holiday Inn Galleria Manila will host 60 "WWE Smackdown Survivor" series superstars who are arriving Oct. 21 and 22 for competitions at the Araneta Center. Some of those expected are Rey Mysterio, Batista, Mark Henry, Booker T. Lashley, The Great Khali, Ken Kennedy, Matt Hardy, Tatanka, Paul London, Brian Kendrick, Mexicools, Sharmell. Special suite rates are being offered until Oct. 20 by the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila for those who wish to see the champions during events and activities to be held at the hotel. Holiday Inn Galleria Manila is at the corner of Ortigas and ADB Avenues, behind Robinsons Galleria. Call 6337111 or e-mail reservation@holiday-inn.galleria-mla.com. Holiday Inn Galleria Manila is a brand of the Intercontinental Hotels Group.



Sunday LIFESTYLE

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DELFOUR-ZUBIRI NUPTIALS

Filipinos dazzle in *French wedding*

VICTOR and Stephanie (née Zubiri) Delfour sealing it with a kiss

The father of the bride couldn't help shedding tears, 'infecting' the bride's mom and the rest of the wedding entourage

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex van Hagen

I WAS COMPLETELY MESMERized by the fairytale love story come true—a princess finding her prince *charmante* and finally united in a grand wedding at a quaint chapel in the southeast of France.

A civil ceremony was held two days before the church wedding at the palace of Toulouse's governor, which was beautifully adorned with medieval frescos. The mayor, a family friend of the Delfours, presided.

Afterwards, we dashed to the magnificent chateau of the groom's grandmother, Madeliene Baboulet, elegant in her St. Laurent outfit. She, together with the groom's statuesque mother, Isabelle Baudet, welcomed us for cocktails in her sprawling garden. Champagne and divine Toulousain specialities were served nonstop.

Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri then hosted the dinner—more champagne, dancing and flirting among the beautiful young things—that lasted until 3 a.m.

It was most amazing to watch the 200 elegant members of French high society dazzled by the 51 select Filipino invitees who jetted in from Cosmo Manille, Paris, Madrid, Monte Carlo, Singapore and the United States.

On the day of the church ceremony, Toulouse witnessed the beauty and elegance of Filipinos, darlings.

Gorgeous Marybeth Lopez de Leon was in a Pitoy Moreno scarlet-red *terno* while sister Vicky Lopez Tuason was in the palest Venetian pink *terno*. Stunning were Maricris Zobel and Maripi Muscat in dramatic Pepito Albert modern Maria Claras; lady of substance Ching de Leon Escaler in an absolutely eye-catching cool aqua *terno* with a diamond brooch for that extra touch of class; and statuesque head-turners Connie Gonzales Araneta in a gilded gossamer sheath, patrician beauty Mindy Barredo Perez-Rubio in a backless blue-green silk tube, and classic beauty Chari Verguth Aboitiz in an elegant corseted *hablon* terno.

Singapore's hostess-with-the-mostest and Philippine Tatler cover gal Kathy de Guzman opted for European couture, short formal dress of oyster gray. Brilliant daughter Amanda de G, in a floating Buddhist saffron cocktail mini, was a favorite among the eligible international gents, together with dreamy, blue-eyed looker Bianca Zobel, escorted by dashing Louie Y.

Madrid-based Olga Garcia Escat's dress was mustard with touches of crimson red and Wedgewood blue. The Carmona sisters also stood out—Mayenne in mysterious black, Annie in a kimona sarong and Marissa in a *jusi*

FILIPINOS/ F2

ZUBIRI FAMILLE: Manuel and Ana with children Xavi, Paolo, Christian and Andrea; Joe and Vicky Zubiri; the newlyweds; Bea and Scott Bannon with son Matthew; Audrey and Miguel Zubiri; and Joey Zubiri

THE GROOM'S grandmother, Mme. Marie Madeliene Baboulet; the couple; Paul Bijaoul, Isabelle Baudet, stepmother Florence Bord, and the groom's father Jacques Delfour

Filipinos dazzle in French wedding

From page F1

pants ensemble.

The church crowd was even more awed when the wedding entourage made its entrance, everyone in moss green and periwinkle blue *terno* or *saya* and *kimona*, all designed and created by the star of them all, ultra glam Vicky Fernandez Zubiri, who took a whole year to plan this glittering once-in-a-lifetime happening.

Primary sponsors from the Philippines were led by private banking whiz Eduardo "Nene" Lacson, CEO of Monte Carlo's General Pacific Finance; and the wife of the Philippine Ambassador to Spain, Conchita Sevilla Bernardo, former signature model who was in a beautiful Maria Clara creation of Vicky Z.

The primary French sponsors were Florence Bord, chic in shredded French taffeta; and the groom's uncle, Pierre Delfour.

Best woman was the groom's only sister, eye-catching Jeanne Delfour. Maid of honor was Bea Z Bannon.

The bride, Stephanie Zubiri, made a dramatic entrance in Vicky Z's year-long labor-of-love, a fully hand-embroidered *jusi* wedding gown. The radiant bride made her father promise not to cry when he handed her over to the groom, Victor Delfour. But when, upon reaching the altar, she kissed and hugged Joe Z, he couldn't help but shed tears, "infecting" the bride's mom, Vicky Z, and the rest of the wedding entourage, including *moi*!

Making the moment even more emotional was the flawless singing of the bride's best friends—from the International School in Makati and the Sorbonne in Paris, France: gorgeous KC Concepcion and nightingale Cris Villonco.

Joey Zubiri's Pavarotti-like rendition of "The Lord's Prayer" was a beautiful tribute to the newlyweds and to the Zubiri family.

This, darlings, was the climax of the fairy-tale wedding of my "royalette" goddaughter —brilliant, pretty, veteran globetrotter Stephanie—and intelligent, handsome young French, Victor of Toulouse.

Seeing such a youthful couple so much in love and so beautiful together was enough to bring tears to everyone's eyes.

The chapel was elegantly decorated by the bride, her sister Bea Z. Bannon, sisters-in-law Audrey T. and Ana G., bringing a touch of Filipiniana to France.

Manuel Zubiri's *famille* led the offertory and the guests were truly entertained by the performance of his cute sons, Xavier and Paolo, who were ring and coin bearers.

Secondary sponsors were: candle, Rosanna Ocampo and Italian beau Luca Ruiscittti; cord, attractive Camille Vilar and Alex Jentes; veil, Cristina Villonco and Antoine Lafitte.

The way to the reception was showered with rose petals, the newlyweds leading the classy guests to the estate of the groom's father, Jacques Delfour, on a golf cart.

A trio of tents were set up amid century-old trees in the *famille*'s sprawling property that overlooked the fantastic old city of Toulouse.

A jazz band played as champagne flowed endlessly and the chi-chi set from Manille nibbled on cocktail tidbits with foie gras and *jamon jabucco*.

The French invitees couldn't get enough of the Filipino finger food excellently prepared by Cordon Bleu student Aaron Isip.

Aprés, everyone moved on to the main tent for the superb sit-down French gourmet dinner and vintage wine. After the excellent feast, it was time to rock and roll to music played by a DJ who kept us on our feet till way past dawn!

Victor and Stephanie jetted off the following day to rhythmic Havana, Cuba, for their honeymoon. They will settle down in wedded bliss in that legendary city of romance, Paris.

Ahh, *palanggas*, *vive l'amour*, *toujours l'amour*...

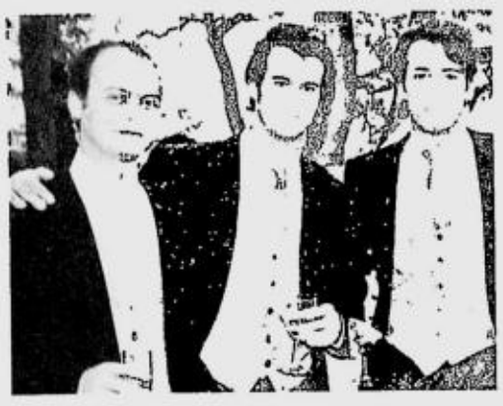
PARIS GANG: Luca Ruiscitti, Françoise Marie Lafitte, Alex Jentes, Victor D., Rosanna Ocampo, Stephanie D., KC Concepcion, Jong Park, Camille Vilar, Cris Villonco, Enrique Campos, Aaron Isip, Stacey Marcelo and Patricia Sebastian de Erice

ALEXI Bellot, Jeanne Delfour, Stephane Nicholas, Sandra Ferracci; and Jean Castaigne, Victor's cousin

CONNIE Araneta and Ching Escaler

MARYBETH de Leon, Vicky Lopez Tuason and Conchita Bernardo

MARI Borao, Maurice A., Joe Zubiri, Wolfie Beirlein and Eduardo Garcia



XAVIER Auvergnat, Françoise Marie Lafitte and Antoine Lafitte

EYE-CATCHING Maricris Zobel and Southern gentry Edouard Garcia

BEAUTIFUL TWOSOME: Maripi Muscat and Johnny Velasquez

CHARI V. Aboitiz and daughter Sofia

BING de Guzman, the newlyweds, Linggoy Araneta, Monica A., Marga Padilla; Mindy and Carlos Perez Rubio and Connie Araneta

MARION Schutte, Marion Claudel, Magalie Puymoyen and Mathias Jourdan

FRENCH-SPEAKING Louie Ysmael and the groom

THE DELFOURS, so beautiful together

JETTING into Toulouse from Singapore, mega banker Bing de Guzman with stylish Kathy de Guzman and daughter Amanda

ANNE Estrade, Carole Bui, Daniela and Pierre Midy, and Mariana Farril

LAURE Baudet, Victor's aunt; and her future daughter-in-law Sandra Ferracci

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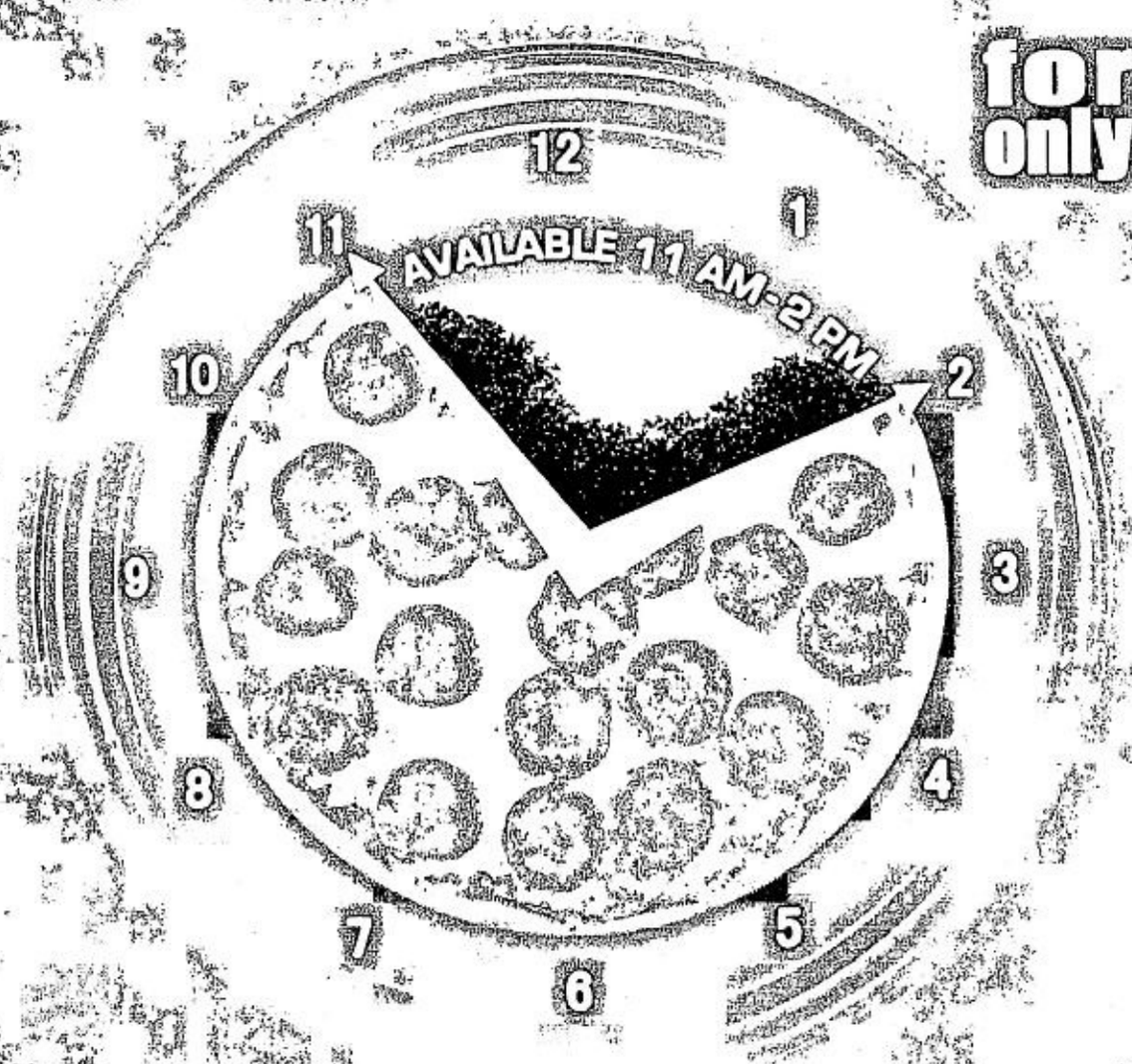

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

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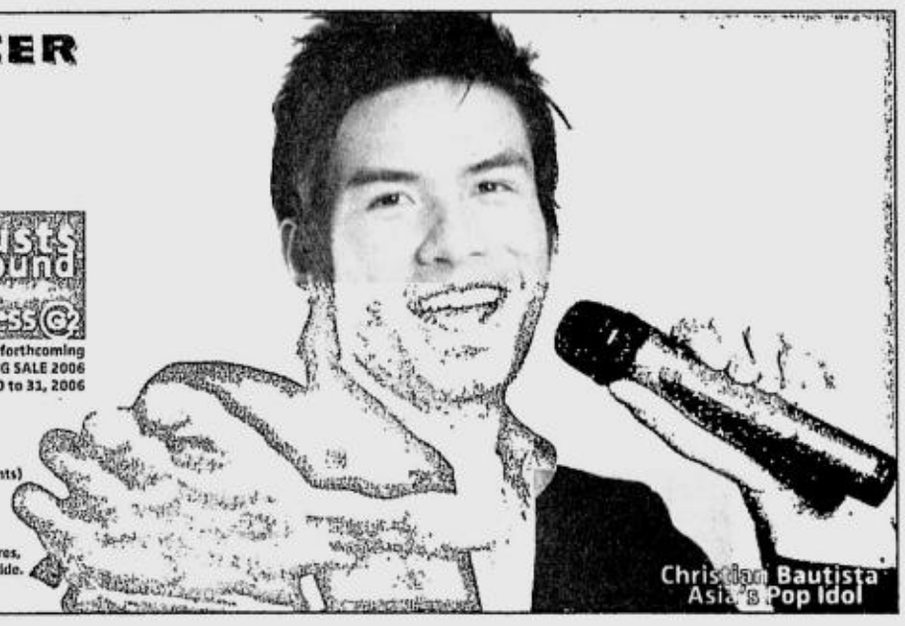


DE GUZMAN-RODRIGUEZ

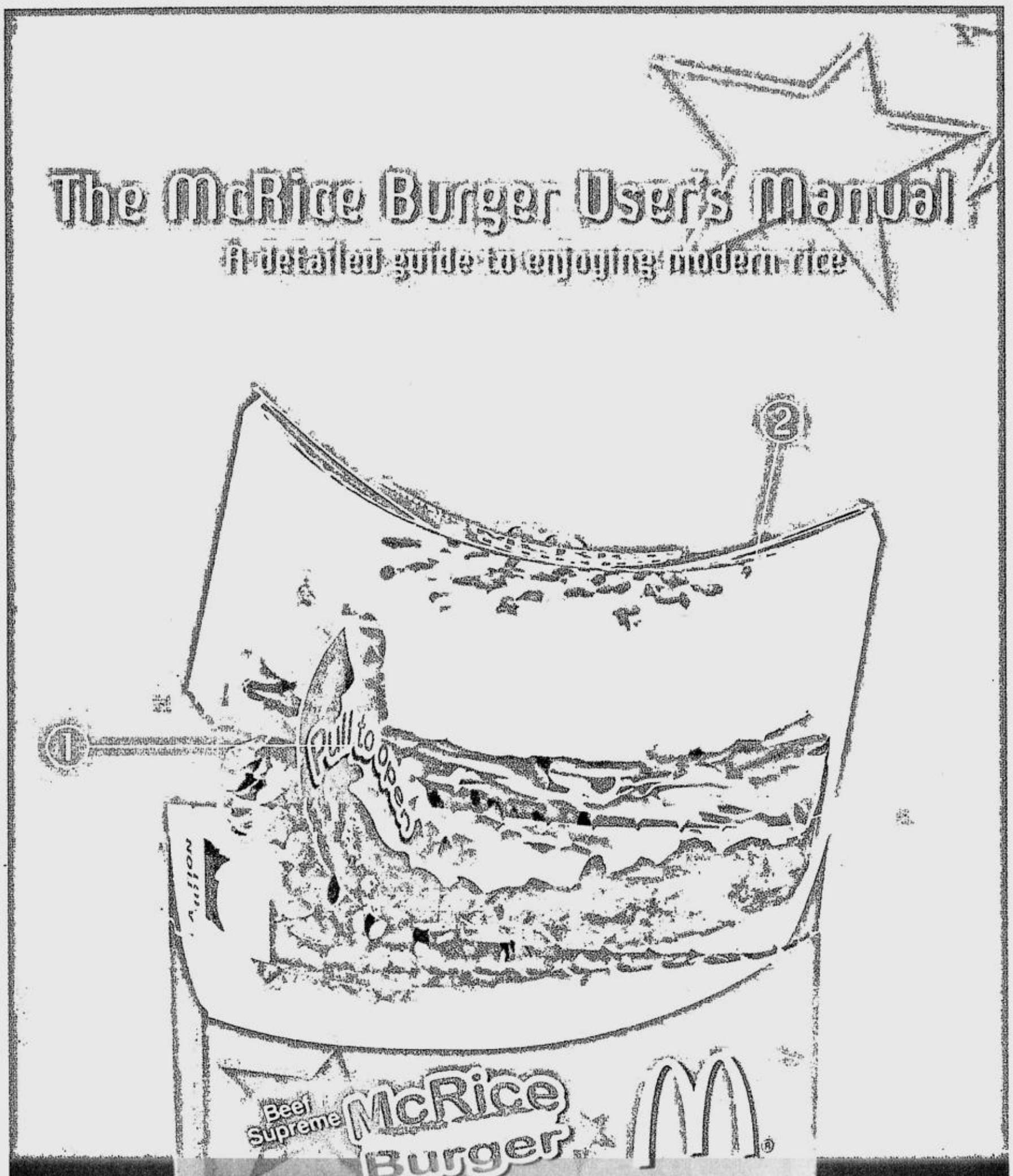
Julius Peter Galendez de Guzman, son of **Peter J. de Guzman** and **Ritz G. de Guzman**, will wed **Joanne Abesamis Rodriguez**, daughter of engineer **Rectorino P. Rodriguez** and **Leticia A. Rodriguez**, Oct. 21 at the Sanctuary Divine Mercy Shrine, Marilao, Bulacan. Reception follows at the Grand Water Falls, Alessandra Garden, Meycauayan, Bulacan. The bride will wear a strapless princess-cut gown in Duchess satin, accented with draperies and cut glass beadwork made by **Odette Bataller**.

DOLAR-WABE

Michael Dolar, son of **Eduardo** and **Wilma Dolar**, will wed **Marcel Wabe**, daughter of **Dominador** and **Adelaida Wabe**, Oct. 22 at the Church of Our Lady of Consolation, Tandang Sora, QC. Reception will follow at Fernwood Gardens in QC. **Eric Pineda** designed the bridal gown using ecru double-ply Thai silk.

The McRice Burger User's Manual

A detailed guide to enjoying hidden rice



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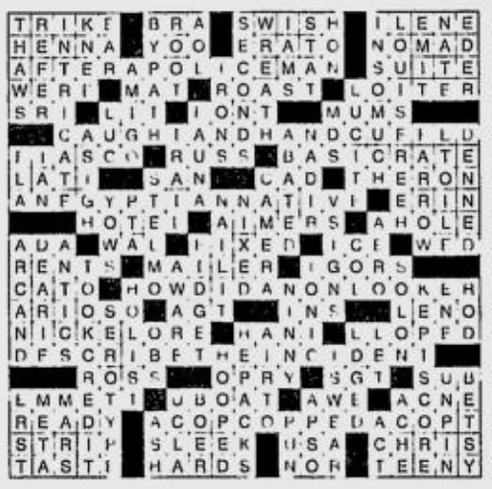
MARTINENT-CO

Jerome Martinent, son of **Louis** and **Evelyne Martinent**, will marry **Anabelle Co**, daughter of **Ada See Co**, Oct. 27 at St. Teresa Church, Singapore. Dinner reception will follow at Raffles Hotel, Singapore. Bridal gown was designed by **Jeannie Goulbourn**.

VILLARINA-BALASI

Jess Anthony Villarina will wed **Karen Theresa Balasi** Oct. 22 at Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola, 980 Park Avenue, New York City, United States. Dinner reception will follow at the New York Botanical Garden. The bridal gown was designed by **Rem Divino**.

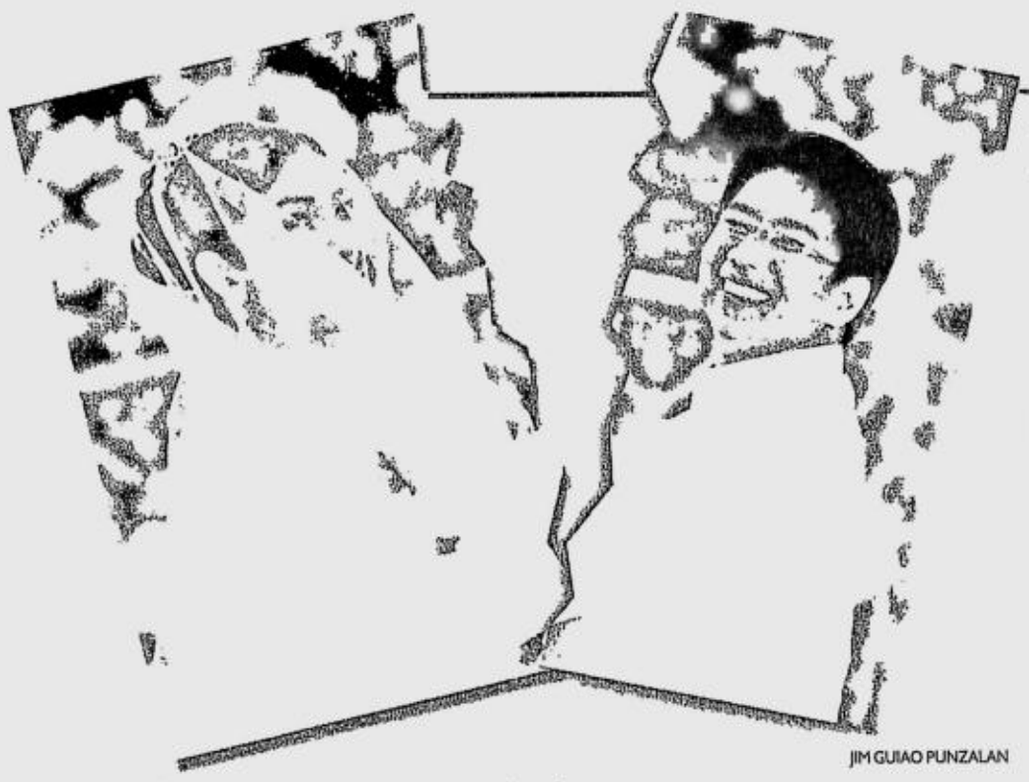
ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Law says all records on cases of violence against women and children are confidential

Why Willie, Liz and their lawyers are not talking

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE SHOW MUST go on for Willie Revillame, but he's not talking because of the court-imposed "gag order."

It's because when Liz Almoro filed a petition for the nullification of her marriage to the "Wowowee" host, a "Temporary Protective Order (TPO)" was also granted by the court, prohibiting both parties from commenting on the case in the media.

On Oct. 5, Almoro filed the annulment case, through lawyer Katrina Legarda, in Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 89, under Judge Elsa de Guzman.

"Confidentiality is meant to protect both parties," Revillame's lawyer, Dexter B. Lacuanan told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Legarda, for her part, pointed to Section 44 of RA 9262, which explained that "all records pertaining to cases of violence against women and their children including those in the barangay shall be confidential..."

On the night of Oct. 10, Legarda was quoted on GMA 7's "24 Oras," confirming that her client Almoro was undergoing "therapy for the battered wife syndrome under Dr. Magno."

Lacuanan and Revillame declined to comment on this development.

Lacuanan reiterated to the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Oct. 11: "As far as Willie's camp is concerned, we will strictly observe and comply with the TPO and refrain from giving statements to the media."

Revillame told the INQUIRER via SMS on Oct. 11 that he is also hesitant to "comment *kasi baka ma*-contempt *ako* [I might be cited for contempt by the court]."

He said, however, that he'd continue reporting for work, hosting the noontime game show "Wowowee" on ABS-CBN. "*Tuloy-tuloy ang lahat* (Everything will go on as scheduled)." He promised the INQUIRER that he would grant an interview, "once everything's okay."

Lacuanan said that Revillame could grant interviews for as long as it would not touch on case details. "He can talk about his feelings and his message to his followers."

In a phone interview on the night of Oct. 10, after the "24 Oras" newscast, Legarda told the INQUIRER: "I never wanted to speak on this issue. Section 44 of RA 9262 is precisely there to protect both parties and their child. Also, this is an ongoing case. Willie Revillame has the right to defend himself in court. Both parties should state their case in

WHY/ G2

Indie filmmaker bags award in Vancouver film fest

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE DIGITAL movie "Todo Todo Teros" has won for its director John Torres the Dragons & Tigers Award for Young Cinema at the 25th Vancouver International Film Festival, making the young director the first Filipino to win the prestigious title.

A three-member jury chose "Todo Todo Teros" because the film is a "multidimensional manifesto on personal experience, filmmaking and life under difficult political conditions," according to the website www.viff.org.

Torres brought home a $5,000 cash prize.

The jury is comprised of Robert Koehler, Jessica Winter and Thai filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul, the website cited.

"After watching a big-budgeted Taiwanese film that was also in competition, I really didn't expect to win any award," Torres told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview on Tuesday. "That's why on the night of the awards show, I deliberately left my video camera in my hotel room. I also opted to sit in the back row of the venue."

Torres explained that because his film is "very experimental and personal" in its treatment, he did not think a lot of people would appreciate it.

INDIE/ G2

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THE GUARDIAN 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 9:10
GATEWAY CINEMA 7
MALL 3
TILL I MET YOU 12:10 PM / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
THE GUARDIAN 1:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:00 PM / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
DEAD OR ALIVE 12:00 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
MY FIRST WEDDING 2:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40
DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

Why Willie, Liz ...

From page G1

front of the judge who will decide this case. It will be the judge that will hear this case, not the media."

Legarda also complained that certain reports made on ABS-CBN were "liable for contempt."

On Oct. 5, "TV Patrol," ABS-CBN's prime time news cast, divulged the ground for the annulment (psychological incapacity of both parties), as well as pertinent details (particularly, Almoro's request for monthly financial support of P300,000 and sole child custody of their son).

"The court can presume that Revillame gave the documents as he is an ABS-CBN talent... Violating a gag order comes with a P500,000 fine," said Legarda via SMS on Oct. 5.

According to a "show of cause" document dated Oct. 9, the following media people "are ordered (by the court) to show cause why they should not be cited for indirect contempt": Luchi Cruz-Valdez, head of ABS-CBN's Current Affairs department, Joey Caburnida of "TV Patrol," Boyet or Boy Agustin of "Bandila," Cristy Fermin and the executive producer of "The Buzz."

Sought for comment, Valdez told the INQUIRER on Oct. 13: "As a journalist, this is how I feel: This development certainly restricts our ability to deliver news information and it raises more questions than answers."

WILLIE Revillame

Legarda confirmed that Almoro sought police protection. "A protection order was issued by the court. Under the law, the sheriff can request assistance from the barangay and police."

Legarda told the INQUIRER on Oct. 11 that her statement about Almoro's therapy sessions was not a ground for contempt because she had just answered a question from the press then and that it didn't extensively "discuss the case."

The reporter's question was: What is her client doing now?

The annulment case is the latest controversy to befall the comedian-host, who is still reeling from the Ultra tragedy, where 71 contestants, mostly elderly women, perished in a stampede that erupted during the show's anniversary special last February.

With a report from Tarra V. Quismundo

Indie filmmaker bags award ...

From page G1

He also noted that not many welcome works like "Todo Todo Teros," which was shot using digital cameras.

But according to a statement from the jury, the movie is proof that "low-grade video can be art, while adopting an evocative, surprising approach to the issue of terrorism. And it's a dynamic and inventive assembly of footage as well as an energetic melding of the personal and the political."

The Dragons & Tigers award is given to "a creative and innovative film from a new director from the Asia-Pacific region," the website stated.

Torres shared: "A few minutes before the start of the awards show, a production staffer asked me to sit in the front row. At that time, I only hoped for a special mention."

But two Korean films were given the special citations—"Faceless Things" by Kim Kyong-Mook and "Geo Lobotomy" by Kim Gok and Kim Sun.

"Todo Todo Teros," a film about a young artist waking up as a terrorist, is a treatise on how we terrorize the ones we love. Asked how he was inspired to make the film, Torres said: "I shot videos while touring Berlin last year. I attended an Asian international film fest there. When I got back and watched what I shot, I realized, "Wow, I can make something out of this!' "

"Todo Todo Teros" also won the critics' prize from the NETPAC-FIPRESCI (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema-International Federation of Film Critics) at the Singapore International Film Festival, as well as a special mention from the jury of the Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival in Indonesia. It will be screened at the Chennia International Film Festival in India later this year.

Starting January, Torres said he would be working on a new film about his "personal hero." He added that he will use a portion of the Hubert bals Fund which he won last year at the Rotterdam International Film Festival to finance his latest project.

Now that his debut film has proven to be successful, doesn't Torres feel pressured to surpass its achievement with his second film?

"Yes, there's pressure," the filmmaker said. "It's an attitude that I have—to get better every day. I try not to think about it and just do it. I vowed to make films that are fearless and brutally honest. I give my everything in all my works."

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POWER PLANT
BARNYARD - G
11:50,2:00,4:10
THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: - R18
6:00,8:00
MY FIRST WEDDING
PG13
1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05
BARNYARD
G
1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00,10:10
THE DEPARTED
R13
1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30
THE GUARDIAN
PG13
1:35,4:25,7:15,10:05
THE GUARDIAN
PG13
11:10,2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30
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LEONARDO DICAPRIO MATT DAMON JACK NICHOLSON MARK WAHLBERG
THE DEPARTED

ROUNDUP

New Koreanovela

"A ROSY LIFE" PREMIERES ON GMA 7 TOmorrow, replacing "Love Story in Harvard" on prime time.

Hailed as Korea's No. 1 Heavy Drama for 2005 and 2nd Overall in the Top Korean Dramas for 2005, it closely follows the story of Betsy (Choi Jin-shil), a housewife whose husband left her for another woman on their 10th anniversary.

This begins a seemingly endless series of struggles that gives a peek into the issues concerning women, particularly on love and marriage.

The Koreanovela also stars Son Hyun-ju as Betsy's husband Ramon.

Animated comedy

From George Miller, the creator of "Babe," comes the animated comedy "Happy Feet," the heartwarming story of singing and tap-dancing penguins.

Featuring the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman and Hugo Weaving, the music-filled spectacle also features songs by Prince, Fantasia Barrino, Chrissie Hynde, kd lang, Jason Mraz and Pink.

It is set in the great nation of Emperor Penguins, deep in Antarctica, where one is nobody unless one can sing—which is unfortunate for Mumble (Wood), who is the worst singer in the world. He is born dancing to his own tune... tap dancing.

Opening soon, "Happy Feet" is distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures.

New James Bond

Columbia Pictures' "Casino Royale," the 21st James Bond adventure, stars Daniel Craig in his debut as 007.

The film is based on the first Bond book written by Ian Fleming, which recounts the making of the world's greatest secret agent.

Directed by Martin Campbell and written by Paul Haggis, it tells the early career of James Bond, when his first mission leads him to Le Chiffre, banker to the world's terrorists.

Campbell says he was excited about directing "Casino Royale" because of the transformation the secret agent character undergoes.

Gala premiere

CHRISTIAN Bale

Warner Bros.' new mystery thriller "The Prestige," with Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale, will have an invitational gala premiere on Oct. 19 at Greenbelt 3.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Christopher Nolan, "The Prestige" is a thriller woven out of the stuff of illusions.

In this twisting, turning tale of mystery, two Victorian-era magicians spark a powerful rivalry that builds into an escalating battle of tricks and an unquenchable thirst to uncover the other's trade secrets.

'Barnyard': Animal magic and mishaps

REVIEW

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

NICKELODEON'S "BARNYARD" HAS GOT TO be one of the strangest digitally animated films about animals ever, but its weirdness plays a huge part in making the incredibly juvenile joke-fest a unique curiosity. The farm beasts in the movie are secretly human-like, in that they think, act and have fun like people when they're not looking. Dogs play cards, cows have mini-concerts, and chickens throw darts at a board with a picture of KFC's Colonel Sanders, among other things. The nocturnal parties of the secretly bipedal beasties show peaceful coexistence between their different species, which is a pretty solid community behind their farmer-owner's back.

The offbeat animal designs in "Barnyard" incorporate a mix of cute and repulsive characteristics, many of them resulting in a rubbery, sheen-less look. But the odd thing about the movie isn't in its ensemble cast of characters' stylized appearance (although some of them look unpleasantly distracting sometimes); it's the deliberately bizarre nature of the animals here, as a whole. While watching it, you might ask yourself: if the animals are so smart, why stay there and pretend to toil in the farm? Also, why does milk pass for booze to the rebellious young cows? While we're at it, what on earth is that hairy mystery creature that the animals keep as a wild pet? And—this is perhaps the most asked question of all—why do the male cows have udders?

Well, guess what? The movie doesn't answer those things at all, but proceeds to milk its premise for all the silly gags that show humans as the farm animals' objects of ridicule. It doesn't really have a point in that regard; the charades aren't really explained or given deeper meaning. The few humans shown here are mostly just blathering, paranoid or clueless types—which is a refreshing change for cartoon people—but the animals really aren't any different.

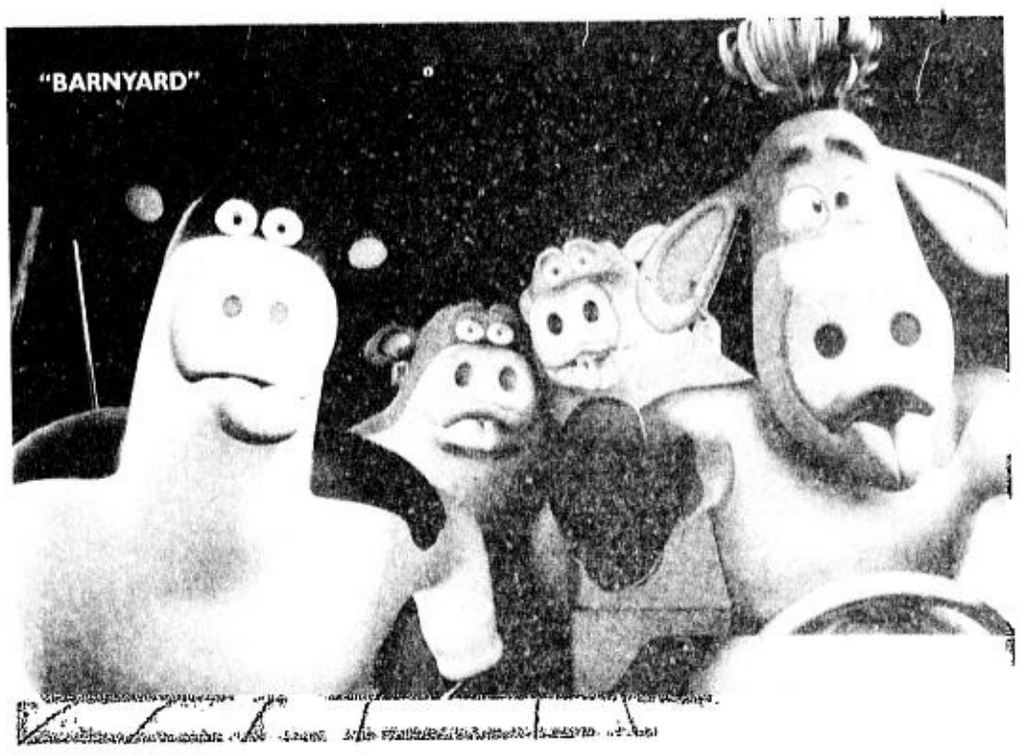
"Barnyard" barely manages to tell the tale of Otis (voiced by Kevin James), a young cow who eventually has to take the mantle of protector to keep his animal friends from being attacked by a pack of coyotes. Prior to becoming the farm community's leader, he's the typical carefree party animal, beloved by many, and was never expected by his fellows to follow in the footsteps of his brave, no-nonsense father (Sam Elliott). Otis, adjusting to his inherited role, befriends the new girl, pregnant cow Daisy (Courteney Cox), while juggling the new responsibilities of keeping their human-like ways confined to the barn.

The Steve Oedekerk-directed movie has coming-of-age elements that follow Disney's "Lion King" template, but it's really a hazy, mixed-up Aesop's fable that feels like it was re-written by cartoon boneheads Beavis and Butthead. It has its message, however worn-out. As with countless other movies that involve bullies, the coyotes here are driven away by the underdogs' courage, improved physical prowess and adeptness in intimidation.

In the end, the animals keep their partying ways a secret, which is no surprise. Had they been outed, it may have made for a more interesting story. Still, "Barnyard" is occasionally funny, even when it grazes along pretty uneventfully. Interspecies romance is scoffed at (a mouse tries to court a cow in vain); a mischievous human boy gets his just desserts, and so on.

Ultimately, the movie is inconsequential, brusque, and disconcerting at times, but it's still an oddity that has its few redeeming moments.

It has coming-of-age elements that follow Disney's 'Lion King,' but...



Aguilera back to basics

SPIN CITY

PAYING TRIBUTE TO the music that inspired her, pop star Christina Aguilera releases her third studio album, "Back To Basics" under Sony-BMG Music Entertainment.

A modern take on vintage jazz, soul and blues from the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, the album is wildly inventive, with a throwback style creating a sound that's gritty and raw.

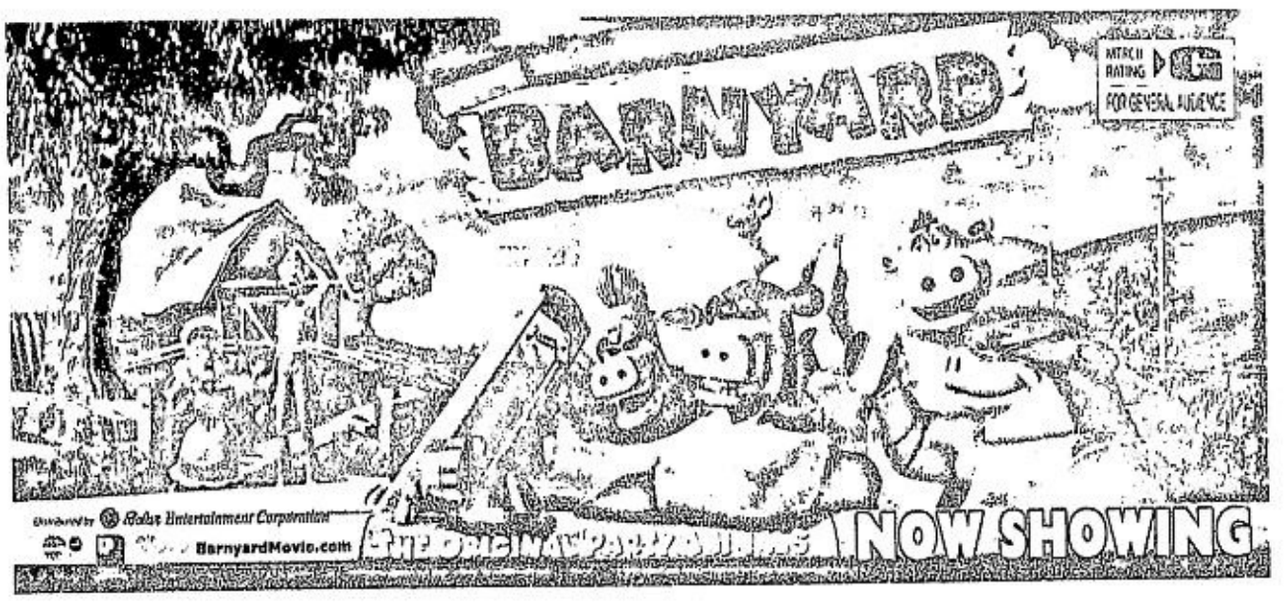
The album reunites her with producer Linda Perry and creates new collaborations with producers like DJ Premier.

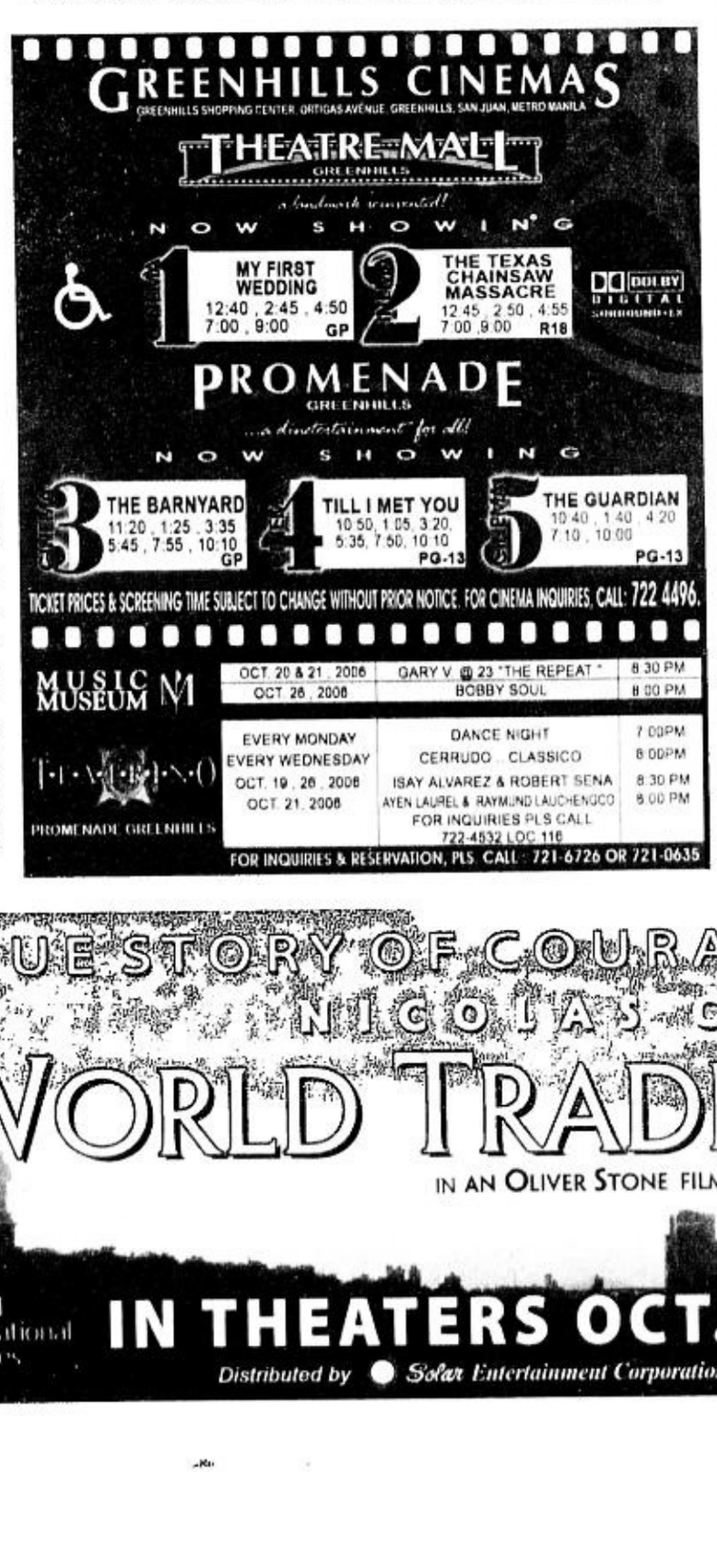
The two-CD album includes 22 new songs, featuring the sexy upbeat first single, "Ain't No Other Man," produced by DJ Premier and Charles Roane.

"This is a concept album that follows a bold, set vision," said Aguilera. "The touchstones are Billie Holiday, Otis Redding, Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald.... what I used to call my 'fun music' when I was a little girl."

The album utilizes an orchestra, choir, string quartet and jazz horns and techniques that offer a vintage sound and sensibility.

Aguilera has sold over 25 million albums worldwide, achieved four No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, and has won three Grammy Awards and a Latin Grammy Award, as well as two top five albums in the United States.





Life without cable TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

We can survive without Oprah and all of her appealing ilk

THE DAYS-LONG blackout after typhoon Milenyo not only forced us to rediscover radio, but also made us cope without cable television. Even after electricity had returned, cable service did not, so we had to content ourselves with "free" television for some more days.

Fact is, there were only a couple of local channels whose signal was fairly clear on our screen, so our viewing options were even more circumscribed. Since we're "addicted" to TV, however, we put up with the drastically limited choices and blurred images.

Unexpectedly, the experience made us reevaluate our dependence on television in general, and on cable TV in particular. With no cable service available, we missed viewing our favorite programs, like the "Today" show on ETC 2nd Avenue, documentaries on the Discovery and National Geographic channels, talk shows hosted by **Oprah Winfrey, Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien, Ellen DeGeneres** and **David Letterman**, the news on BBC and CNN, political satire on "The Daily Show," comedy on "Saturday Night Live," etc.

Instead, we had to make do with local programs and their predictable formats, excessively long commercial breaks, shouting hosts, not so hidden agendas, endless plugs, self-serving comments—etc.!

But, you know what? After some hours of viewing only those two fuzzy local channels, we found our dependence on cable TV starting to lose its tight hold on our broadcasting preferences.

It didn't seem possible, but yes, we realized that, if push came to shove, we could survive even without dear Oprah and all of her appealing ilk.

As the hours extended, we found ourselves viewing TV less, and resorting to other ways to keep ourselves occupied or entertained.

We read, sketched, engaged in extended conversations with relatives and friends, puttered around the house, fixed our clothes closet and bookshelves—and were surprised to see that we were having ourselves a reasonably good time.

We also realized that some of the local shows we watched weren't terrible—in fact, we rather enjoyed some of them.

Thus did our enforced no-cable period make us get over our addiction to cable, and get off our high horse when it came to "free" TV. Everything really is a matter of context, after all.

We found this shift in perspective useful, because, aside from the cable shows we've mentioned, we've been generally unhappy with the cable service we've been getting. We pay a lot for it, but don't get a lot back.

Apart from the good shows and channels, cable TV gives us quite a number of "filler" channels that don't do us much good. In fact, of the many channels cable provides us, only about a dozen are of substantial worth to us.

Well, after "surviving" without cable for some days and nights, we can now say that, if cable TV doesn't improve, we're prepared to give it up completely, save ourselves a bundle, and make do with "free" TV *plus* the other activities that we have rediscovered—"thanks" to the long blackout that we all recently had to endure.

Awarding ceremony

At 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, the awarding ceremony of the 39th Shell National Students' Art Competition will be held at SM Megamall. The exhibit of the competition's 100 best entries and winners will run Oct. 19-25.

More playdates

The fun musical revue about the different faces and phases of romance, "Love You, Hate You, Love You," starring **Isay Alvarez** and **Robert Seña**, will be performed anew at the Teatrino in Greenhills on Oct. 19, 20 and Nov. 3,9 and 10. Call 721-6726.

The show features songs from the popular musical couple's album "Duets," which they're promoting at Robinsons San Fernando (today) and Robinsons Metro East (Oct. 22).

'Kaleldo'

We caught **Brillante Mendoza's** "Kaleldo" a long time ago, and liked it—in particular for the performances of **Cherry Pie Picache** and **Johnny Delgado**. Finally, after an exceedingly long wait, the film will be shown in Metro Manila on Nov. 1. Interestingly, the movie is already being shown at the Rome International Film Festival, until Oct. 21.

NY Filipino film fest

The ongoing New York Filipino Film Festival has shown the films of Cinemalaya 1, as well as other digital productions.

Other movies on view: Oct. 16, "La Visa Loca," "Tatlong Thong Walang Diyos," "Inslang." Oct. 17, "Cavite," "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?," "Passionate Strangers." Oct. 18, "Ang Balikbayan," "Mababangong Bangungot," "American Adobo." Oct. 19, "An Untold Triumph," "Sandaan," "Rigodon."

The festival is presented by the Smithsonian Institute, the CCP and the Philippine Consulate of New York.

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•Oct 25 STICK IT
•Nov 1 INVINCIBLE
•Nov 22 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

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11:00AM 12:30PM 2:00PM 3:30PM 10:00PM
ANT BULLY IN 3D
5:00PM
SUPERMAN RETURNS
7:00PM Admission Price- P360
1 MY FIRST WEDDING
2 PULSE
3 THE DEPARTED
4 BARNYARD
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 DEAD OR ALIVE/ WWE
PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
THE GUARDIAN
CENTERSTAGE
THE GUARDIAN
CINEMA 1
THE GUARDIAN
CINEMA 2
THE DEPARTED
633-0070

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED
5 THE BREED/ WWE
6 BARNYARD
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 FIRST DAY HIGH
10 MY FIRST WEDDING
11 PULSE
12 THE DEPARTED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 RESERVED
5 THE DEPARTED
6 STEP UP/ WWE
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 MY FIRST WEDDING
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 BARNYARD
12 PULSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 MY FIRST WEDDING
2 THE BREED
3 STEP UP
4 PULSE
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 THE DEPARTED
10 DEAD OR ALIVE
11 FLY BOYS
12 ZOOM

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1410
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 PULSE
5 RESERVED
6 MY FIRST WEDDING
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 DEAD OR ALIVE/WWE
9 THE DEPARTED
10 BARNYARD

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 THE GUARDIAN/ WWE
2 PULSE
3 MY FIRST WEDDING
4 THE DEPARTED
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 FLY BOYS
2 BARNYARD
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 PULSE
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 THE DEPARTED
8 MY FIRST WEDDING
9 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY CICUTAN 770-3055
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 MY FIRST WEDDING
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE DEPARTED
5 BARNYARD
6 STEP UP/ WWE
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 POSSESSED BY EVIL
10 PULSE
11 TILL I MET YOU
12 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE BREED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 PULSE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 THE DEPARTED
8 MY FIRST WEDDING

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 FLY BOYS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 FLY BOY
4 SCOOP
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BREED

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 WICKER MAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)8637081-85
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 SCOOP
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 FLY BOYS
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6107836-39
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE GUARDIAN

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE NUN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-68
1 STEP UP
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREED
2 RESERVE
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 RESERVED
8 FLY BOYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE DEPARTED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 FLY BOYS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE BREED

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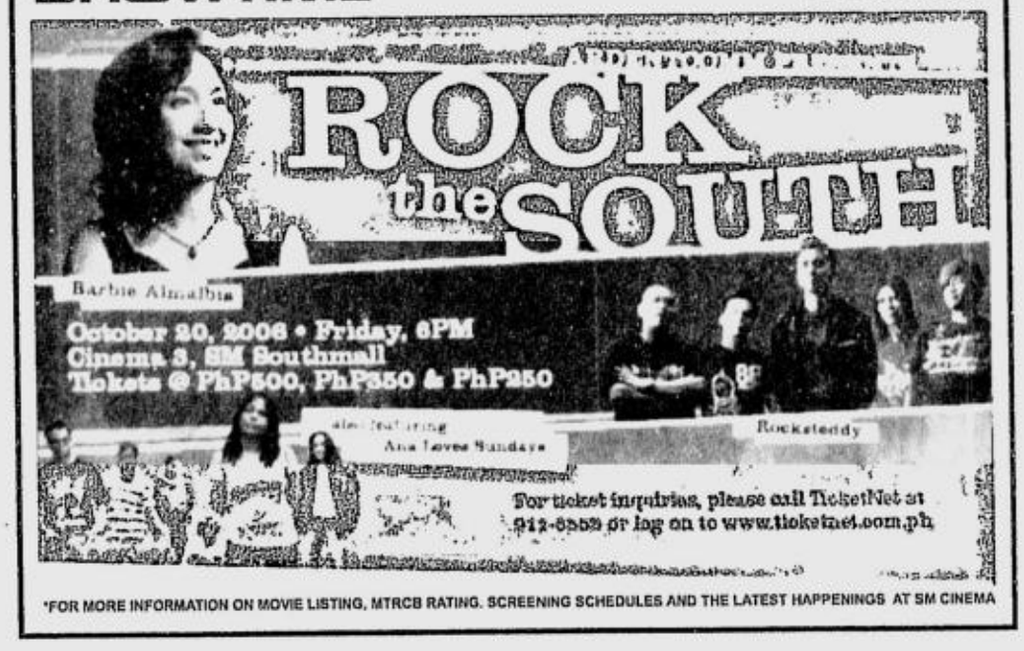

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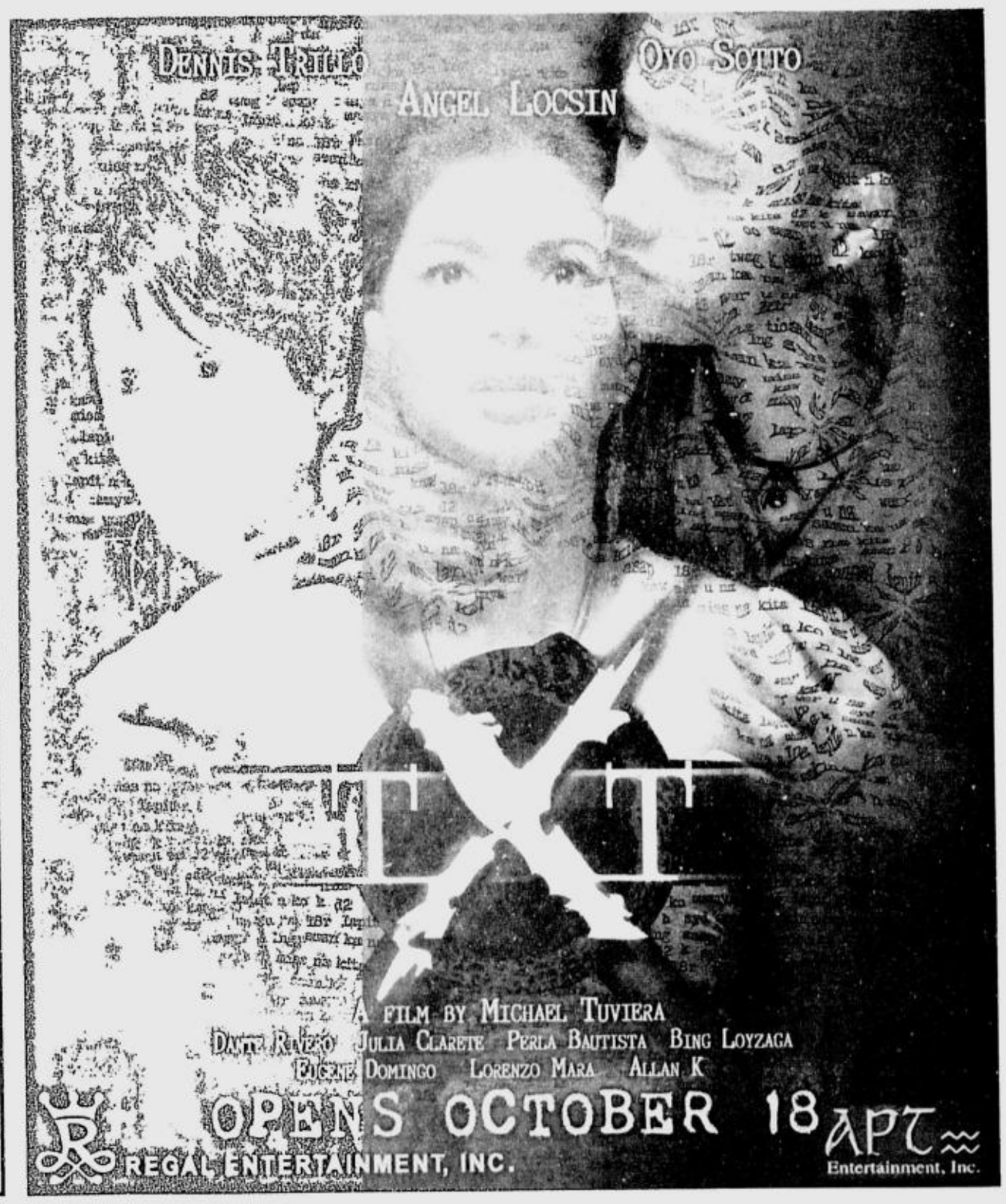

Kamikazee rocks—and how

From page G6

na hindi lahat ng may tattoo *at mahaba ang buhok ay masamang tao...*" In another instance, he was very flippant: *Ang binayad ho sa 'min dito*, 72 million pesos!" Apparently, Contreras was basking in the power and freedom afforded to an audacious rock star.

Ten years ago, this was quite unimaginable.

Corporate sponsorship of rock bands were few and far between. Probably the only consumer products that musicians were asked to promote then were alcoholic drinks. (Parokya ni Edgar endorsing cars, snacks and deodorant came only recently.)

But now it's an entirely different story.

In the case of Kamikazee, all it took was just one hit song ("Narda") for big business to notice how influential these rock bands have become. The new cola drink is not exactly Kamikazee's first endorsement deal. It actually came close on the heels of a commercial jingle for a deodorant, "First Day High," which was written and recorded by the band. It even spawned a movie of the same title.

This thing is not limited to Kamikazee. Nor are the products being endorsed limited to drinks and personal hygiene. More prevalent are deals involving jeans, T-shirts, shoes and other consumer items normally patronized by the hordes that come to watch rock concerts.

Watching Contreras jump, roll over, do a headstand, grind his hips, show off his heavily-tattooed body, tease the girls and scream his head off along with the screeching, metallic crunch of rock 'n' roll music, one is convinced that this guy is capable of doing anything and getting away with it. In fact, he actually utters cuss words, but off the microphone.

The idea of local rock stardom has just been democratized.

KID FIT

Comedy adventures

Disney Channel features three back-to-back comedy series on Saturdays and Sundays.

Beginning this month, emperor-to-be Kuzco and the Kuzco Academy gang appear on Disney's "The Emperor's New School" at 6 p.m.

It shows Kuzco's progress in school and how he shakes off arch-rival Yzma's wicked plans to turn him to a Llama.

Next comes the hilarious adventures of the naughty tween twins on "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody" at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Bean follows at 7 p.m., starring Rowan Atkinson with his weirdness and curiosity that never fails to annoy everyone he interacts with.

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEPARTED • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 TILL I MET YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 THE GUARDIAN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

6 RESERVED for Victory Christian Fellowship

7 BARNYARD
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

8 PULSE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 MY FIRST WEDDING
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 TILL I MET YOU
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50

2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 BARNYARD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 MY FIRST WEDDING
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

5 THE DEPARTED
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 PULSE
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 THE GUARDIAN
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 TILL I MET YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

3 THE DEPARTED
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

4 BARNYARD
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

5 PULSE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 MY FIRST WEDDING
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 THE GUARDIAN
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3229/935-3229-30

1 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 PULSE
5 BARNYARD

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2578 **PIONEER** 687-5378

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 BARNYARD
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907 **LIPA** (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 STEP UP

1 THE WICKER MAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-1332 **ANGELES** (045) 892-2348

1 STEP UP
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE DEPARTED

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
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REVIEW

Kamikazee rocks—and how

Vocalist Jay Contreras jumps, rolls over, does a headstand and shows off his heavily-tattooed body

GIRLS shriek at the sight of Jay Contreras, vocalist of Kamikaze PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

KAMIKAZEE VOCALIST JAY CONTRERAS does not resemble the image of a drop-dead gorgeous rock star. He's probably less than five feet tall, with street-bum looks and a low-brow humor.

But he's still a rock star. The guy is so popular these days that girls shriek and get overwhelmed by his sexually explicit moves onstage. These girls have no qualms taking turns kissing him during concerts.

Further proof on how hot he is may be seen on your TV screens. Together with his band mates, Contreras has snagged a product endorsement deal for Green Teazz, a new drink by Universal Robina Corporation (URC), makers of the C2 green tea brand.

At the product launch held on Oct. 6 at the Metrowalk Commercial Complex in Ortigas, Pasig, a sizeable youthful crowd came to sample the drink and watch Kamikazee perform. Two other bands, Up Dharma Down and Protein Shake, served as front acts.

Event hosts Ariel and Maverick with Patty Laurel had their hands full working up an audience that seemed tame and reserved in the early hours. But when Kamikazee took the stage, everyone got up on their feet, by turns unaffected and amused at a bunch of teenaged punks craving for attention with their slam-dancing antics, and generally bowled over by Contreras' performance.

In between numbers, Contreras cracked jokes that were so crass but still sounded funny enough to his adoring fans. At one point, he became sarcastic: "*Gusto ho naming patunayan*

KAMIKAZEE/ G5

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"It was entertaining, poignant, and romantic. Nakalimutan ko ang problema ng Pilipinas ng dalawang oras." - LOREN LEGARDA, Senator
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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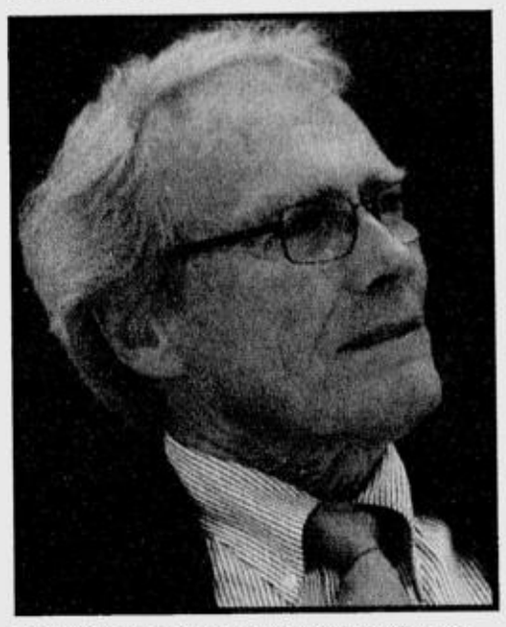
At 76, Eastwood makes back-to-back films



HOLLYWOOD'S STATESMAN. A 45-year-old in a 76-year-old body

...and Ryan Philippe gives him the highest compliment: 'It makes you feel less of a man to be around Clint'

ACTOR'S DIRECTOR. Clint Eastwood oversees the action on the set of his new film, "Flags of Our Fathers."

LOS ANGELES—AT 76, OSCar-winning actor and director **Clint Eastwood** has done what filmmakers half his age could only talk and dream of doing for years—make back-to-back movies.

Hollywood's statesman just went ahead and did it. And they're not simple movies. He made two films, one after another, about the battle of Iwo Jima from two perspectives—American ("Flags of Our Fathers") and Japanese ("Letters from Iwo Jima"). It is one of the more interesting projects that Hollywood, lately suffering from a shortage of original ideas, has gotten us very curious.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Clint is releasing "Flags" first—in the US, Japan and elsewhere this month. According to Clint, the only country where a release date for "Letters" has been set is in Japan, where it will open in December.

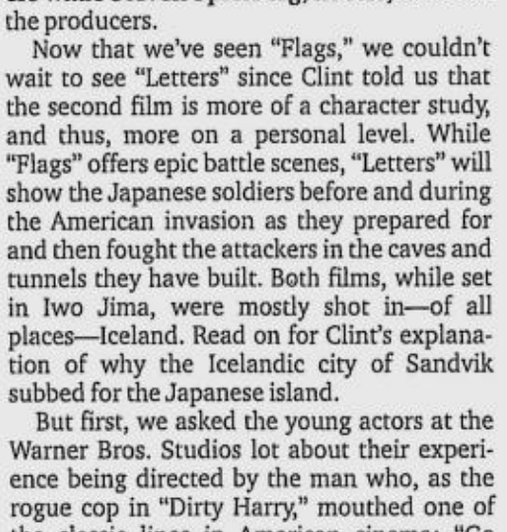
On a more epic scale than "Letters," "Flags" delves into the true stories behind the five American Marines and one Navy Corpsman who were captured in that classic photo (one of the most memorable images of World War II) raising the US flag on Mount Suribachi in Iwo Jima as the battle raged on. The Associated Press' **Joe Rosenthal** took that famous picture. Paul Haggis, the award-winning writer of "Crash," penned the screenplay with **William Broyles Jr.**, based on the book of the same name by **James Bradley** and **Ron Powers** while **Steven Spielberg**, no less, is one of the producers.

Now that we've seen "Flags," we couldn't wait to see "Letters" since Clint told us that the second film is more of a character study, and thus, more on a personal level. While "Flags" offers epic battle scenes, "Letters" will show the Japanese soldiers before and during the American invasion as they prepared for and then fought the attackers in the caves and tunnels they have built. Both films, while set in Iwo Jima, were mostly shot in—of all places—Iceland. Read on for Clint's explanation of why the Icelandic city of Sandvik subbed for the Japanese island.

But first, we asked the young actors at the Warner Bros. Studios lot about their experience being directed by the man who, as the rogue cop in "Dirty Harry," mouthed one of the classic lines in American cinema: "Go ahead, make my day."

Adam Beach, who plays **Ira Hayes**, the Na-

AT 76/ H2



RYAN Philippe: "I don't really think he's 76. It's a lie."

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At 76, Eastwood makes back-to-back films

From page H1

tive American among the flag raisers, got our vote for the most touchingly emotional interview subject so far this year (last year it was **Terrence Howard**). A true Indian but from a Canadian tribe, Adam cried a couple of times during our interview as he talked about his heritage.

Adam did not cry when talking about his director; he just seemed inspired by the man who won three Golden Globe Best Director Awards for "Million Dollar Baby" (he guided **Hilary Swank** in her award-winning performance as a boxer), "Unforgiven" and "Bird."

"RAISING THE FLAG ON IWO JIMA," World War II's most memorable photograph

The actor said: "Clint Eastwood allowed me to let loose because at first I was thinking like, hey, I need some help here. But he's like, no, I brought you in to do your thing. Everything was done in one take. After two weeks, I thought, when is this one-take thing going to stop? Then I realized that he just simply believed in me. So from thereon, I thought, I got it. I'm going to give my all."

We next asked **Jesse Bradford** ("Bring it On," "Swimfan"), who has the honor of having played the son of two great actors, **Robert De Niro** ("Falling in Love") and **Harrison Ford** ("Presumed Innocent").

When we requested the former child actor, who plays flag raiser **Rene Gagnon**, to comment on an affectionate statement by Clint's longtime lighting technician, **Tom Stern**, that "Clint is the most articulate non-verbal person I've ever met," he agreed: "That's well put. I might have to steal that from Tom from hereon. Clint's crew is mostly people who have worked with him forever so the set operates like on a Swiss watch. They just know how to keep things moving. I've never worked before in a production where the average work day was eight hours, sometimes less. That was amazing because in this business, you pretty much count on at least 12 hours a day on the set."

Jesse added, "Clint radiates this energy like a jazz musician which he is. Before I met him, I thought he was a hard-nosed taskmaster. Not at all. He's this really mellow guy whom I can picture 40 years ago in a corner of a smoky bar, snapping his fingers while listening to **Charlie Parker**. That's his energy—a mellow one but he still manages to lead without having to be assertive at all."

Ryan Philippe, interviewed a few days later at Four Seasons, said of Clint: "I don't really think that he's 76. It's a lie (laughter). It's a mask he wears. He's actually 45. He takes really good care of himself. The guy works out every day. He eats salmon nonstop. I heard this story about Clint working out in a gym in Iceland. **Barry Pepper** (one of the actors) was watching him from a distance. Clint got off a machine and Barry went over to try it. Barry couldn't lift it (laughter)."

The actor, whose role is flag raiser **John "Doc" Bradley** (the father of James Bradley, author of the film's book source), continued, "I remember when we shot the flag raising scene. It was 6:30 in the morning and he was out there with a bag over his shoulder, climbing this mountain and he's 76 years old. When we shot the landing on the island, he stood on the side of the boat with the camera and balanced himself, with no one holding him. The guy is a specimen. He's really something. I tell people that it makes you feel like less of a man to be around Clint."

The husband of **Reese Witherspoon** volunteered one more interesting anecdote: "One of the greatest personal moments I had with Clint was when we invited him and his wife to dinner at our home when we were shooting in Los Angeles. We sat until two in the morning drinking wine. Clint sat down at the piano and played the main theme of the movie. It was something I'll never forget—to have Clint Eastwood playing this beautiful music (he composed the score) in your house. That was a really special moment."

We first met Clint on this same spot, the lobby of the Steven J. Ross Theater, and on a fine fall day, too. Casually attired when we interviewed him for "Million Dollar Baby," the silver-haired former mayor of Carmel, California, was formally dressed this time, complete with a necktie. He may be almost "non-verbal" on the set since he's working with a crew that has known him and his preferences for many years but at interviews, he's articulate, albeit in a quiet, low-key manner.

How did you get the idea of doing a second film from a Japanese perspective?

As I researched the stories on Iwo Jima and the stories of the American Marine Corps, I became aware of the brilliant strategies of the Japanese general who commanded the island. I wondered what kind of a person he was. So I asked a friend of mine in Japan to send me a book on this General **Tadamichi Kuribayashi**. It turns out that in the late 1920s, Kuribayashi was an envoy in the United States. He studied English at Harvard. He traveled extensively over here. He liked the United States. He had a lot of friends here.

He thought that it was ill-advised that the Japanese Empire would go to war with America. It's interesting when you get a person like that. You wonder what happens—how he goes there and defends this island and makes what they (the American troops) thought was going to be a three- or four-day battle into over a month of absolute mayhem.

We went to Japan and met with the Iwo Jima Association which is a group of men who were in military at the time. None of them were actually on the island. The Japanese suffered almost total casualties. But if you read their letters to their families, they had the same desires (as those of the American soldiers). They missed their family. They wrote to their mothers that they didn't want to die. We had a story written called "Letters from Iwo Jima." I think what we're trying to tell in these two movies is that at best, war is a futile exercise.

How different is "Letters" from "Flags"?

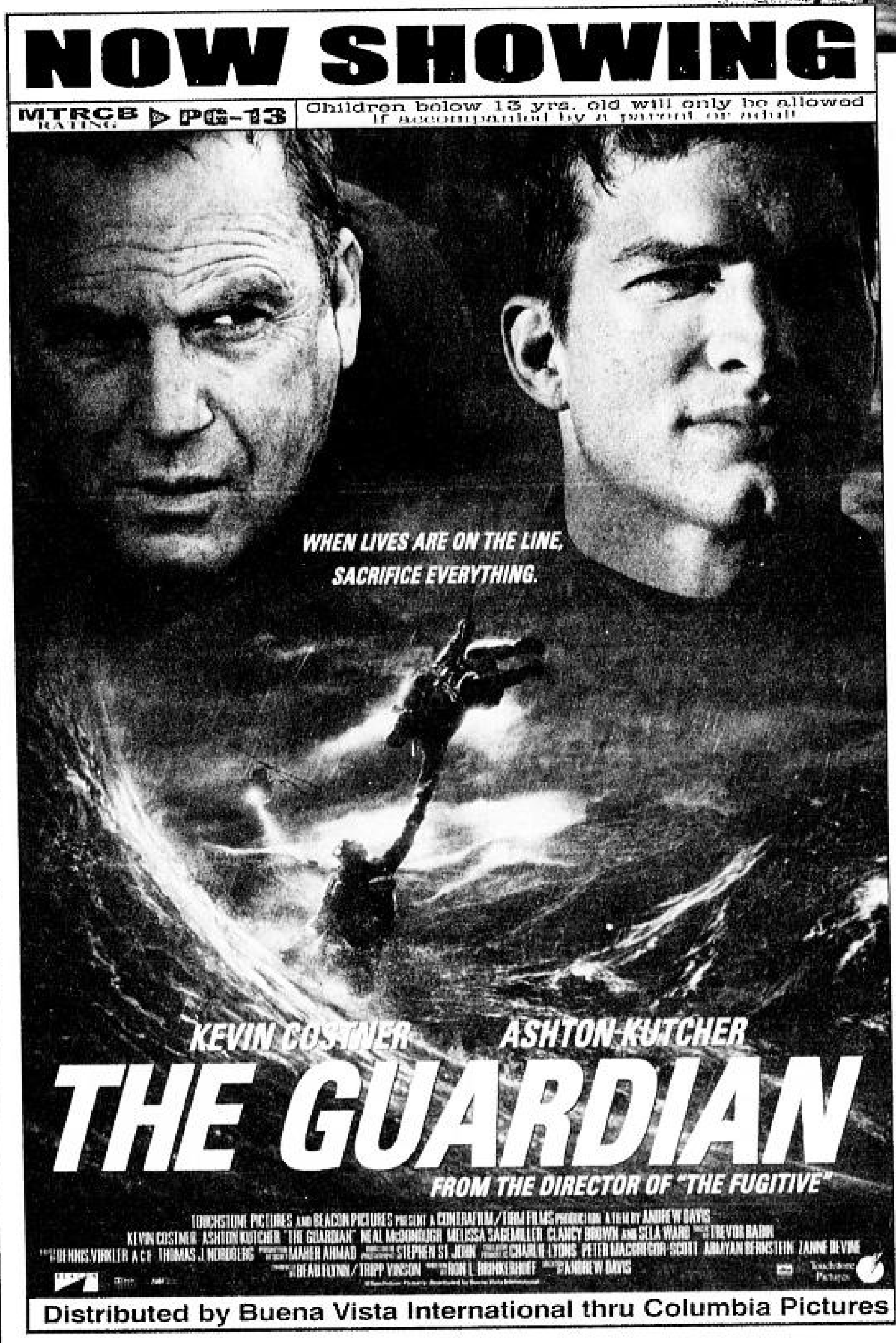
The Japanese movie is totally different because (it shows that) the troops, the Army and the Navy of the Empire of Japan were tunneled into the ground. They lived a sort of subterranean existence. The movie starts out a year before the invasion and then shows what happens to them and what their thoughts were. A couple of scenes (from "Flags") could be the opposite end of the story (of "Letters"). A new general who comes on board is played by Ken Watanabe who's quite a wonderful actor. The Japanese soldiers had all their dreams and hopes and there they were, stuck on an island. The movie was all done in Japanese.

How was your experience directing a movie in a completely different language? How did you direct the Japanese actors?

I speak fluent Japanese (laughter). No. I know *domo arigato*—a few things. I worked in a lot of films in Europe where people spoke different languages. It all seemed to come out (well) in the end. In this film, I was actually fascinated to tell a story in a different language of which you really don't know too much about, in another society with a different mentality. It was a great time. I had some terrific actors. A couple of actors spoke English.

You know what the Japanese actors are saying because you know what the script is. You know good acting when you see it. You don't have to know the language because you see it in the eyes and in the emotions on their faces. I liked the experience very much. It was just different enough from "Flags" to make it not feel like I was repeating myself although it was the same battle. I shot it from different angles so it has a whole different feel.

AT 76/ H3



At 76, Eastwood makes back-to-back . . . From page H2

Did you ever consider filming in Iwo Jima itself? How did you end up filming in Iceland?

We went to Iwo Jima and looked it over, went into the tunnels and over the land-covered everything. It was quite an amazing experience but we felt that they (the Japanese government) will probably allow certain things to be done but they wouldn't want us to literally re-invade the island (laughter). So we looked at other places with black sand beaches, including Hawaii. One of the folks from Iceland approached **Rob Lorenz** (one of Clint's producers) and said, "I know this sounds far-fetched but I want you to listen with an open mind. In Iceland, you can recreate Iwo Jima."

So we went to Iceland and it turns out that it has the same black sand beaches (of Iwo Jima). So we filmed there for about five weeks. Then we filmed small parts in Iwo Jima that were not intrusive because of the island's sacred status. The Japanese still have about 12,000 men unaccounted for in Iwo Jima. So they feel very spiritual about the island. You see different shrines as you go around. Sometimes you'll see a shrine with a bottle of Scotch open with the cap off. I jokingly asked, doesn't anybody ever go up and take a little swig from this? They said, no, you don't do that—that's for the spirit. When you stand on those beaches, you can just imagine all those troops coming and the tremendous fire power against them. It was a little overwhelming.

You've lived through the different wars. As a registered Republican, how has your view of war changed?

Well, I look back and say, how did I ever become a registered Republican? (Laughter.) I was in the army involuntarily, by the way. **Dwight D. Eisenhower** was running for President. His campaign promise was that if he was elected, he would go to Korea and try to resolve the Korean conflict. I was young and believed that. He did go over there and eventually, it came to a conclusion but probably not a very satisfactory one as we're seeing today.

My personal feeling is that I don't like war. I would like to live the rest of my life without wars but I probably said that too at age 15 (laughter).

"Flags" feels like an anti-patriotic movie. What was your intention?

I didn't mean it to be anti-patriotic because it (World War II) was certainly a patriotic time in history. Although there is that undercurrent of using people, that happens everywhere.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

JESSE BRADFORD: "Clint radiates energy like a jazz musician which he is."

ADAM BEACH: "Clint allowed me to let loose."

Clash of the copycats

From page H4

are just girls, for crying out loud. Why are they being asked to play characters way beyond their age, grasp or comprehension? What are flyweights like them doing in welterweight roles?

Sure, Sharon was also 19 or thereabouts when she played Dorina, as Sarah is now. But look at Sharon then—pregnant by the time she got married in church, separated a couple of years later—and look at Sarah or Angelika today, and see if they're not better off playing people nearer their youthful experience or knowledge of the world. Better yet, think of Cherie Gil. Does she ever strike you as someone *anyone* can copy?

Quite possibly, these gangly ingenues have the massive talent to justify their network's huge investments in them, but we wouldn't know that from the infantile, insipid avenues for expression (I hesitate to say artistic expression) that TV gives them.

Forcing young performers to grow up too fast by dumping on their hands roles and obligations they've no clue at all how to play decently is the best way to kill their talent—if not by misuse, then surely by the jeers that would laugh them out of the marketplace. I mean the thinking marketplace. After all, after having seen Angelika as Lavinia wobble her way through "Dito Ba?" on what was supposed to be her night of nights, what was I to do but agree with my colleague Herbie who, when asked about the *sineserye*, first swallowed his siomai then harrumphed, "Clash of the Copycats?"

Angelika, wherever you are, sue the casting idiot that got you into this stinky mess. That goes for you too, Sarah girl.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com

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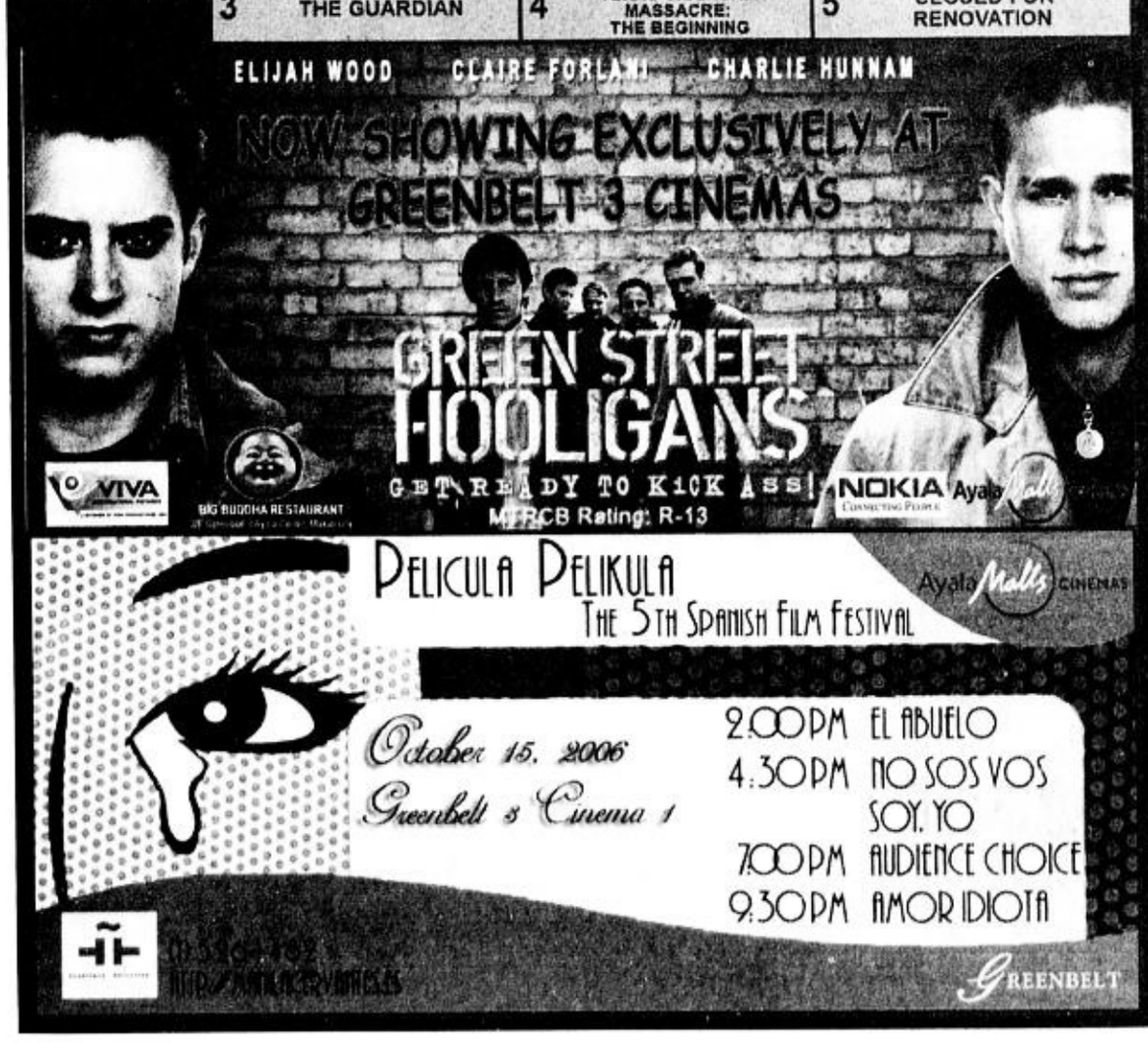
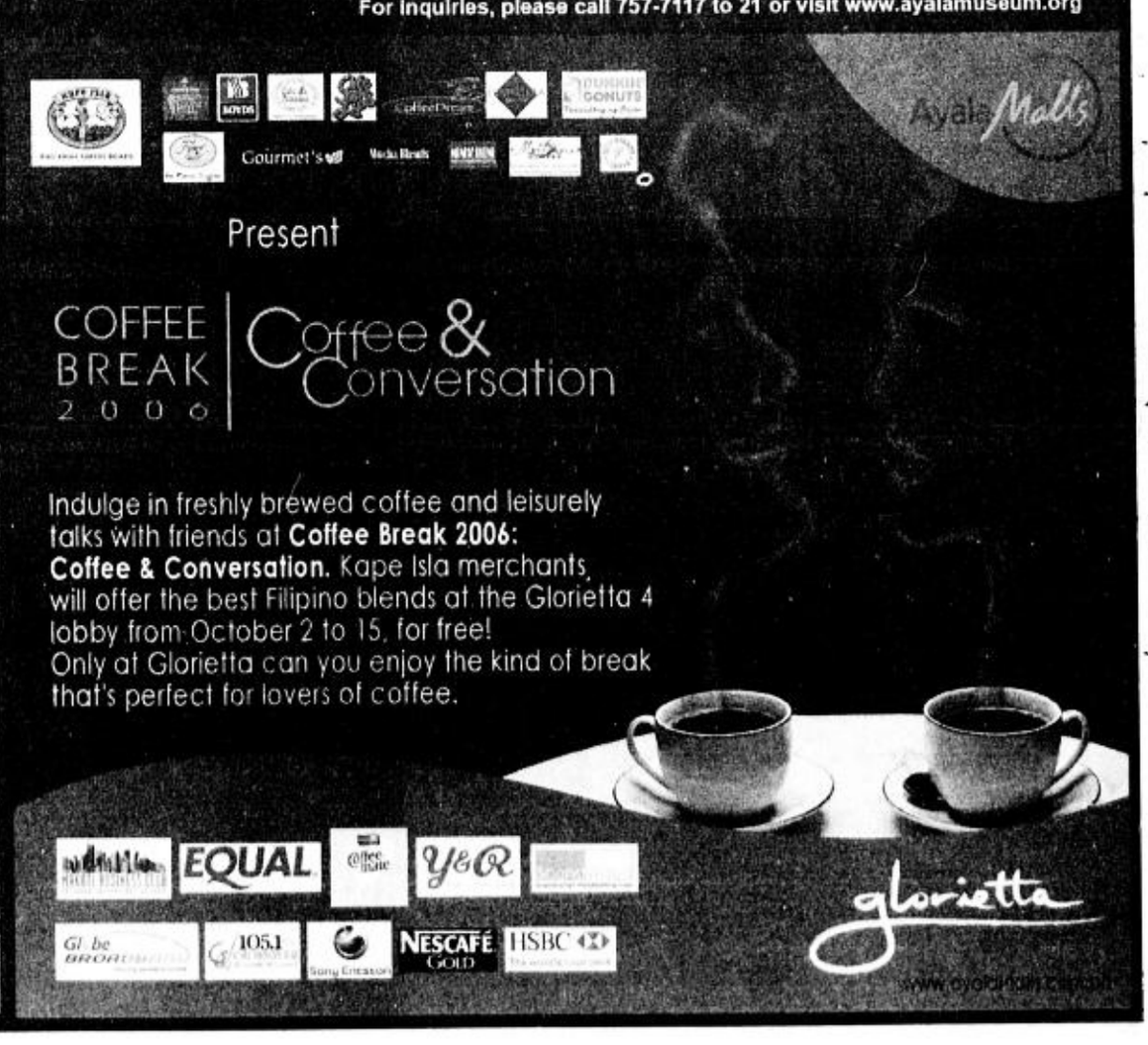
Ayala MUSEUM	19th - 20th Century Philippine Art from Ayala Museum Collection On-going until January 2007 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org





What are flyweights like Angelika de la Cruz and Sarah Geronimo doing in welterweight roles?

SARAH Geronimo and Angelika de la Cruz AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Clash of the copycats

By Gibbs Cadiz

And now for something really important ...

On my way back by overnight bus from typhoon-ravaged Sorsogon, I caught part of the penultimate episode of "Bituing Walang Ningning" on a meal-stop TV. I nearly choked on my bland instant noodles when Angelika de la Cruz began singing "Dito Ba." This was supposed to be her concert showdown with Dorina (Sarah Geronimo), and she was supposed to be incarnating the part played to perfection in the movie by Cherie Gil.

I always have laughing fits whenever I remember "Bituing Walang Ningning," and I say that with all due affection. My mother was a fierce Sharonian, and that rubbed off on me in my high school years. A friend and I watched the movie in a flea-infested, double-feature theater that had to close its doors prematurely due to a jam-packed house. Sharon was pregnant with KC while shooting the movie, so what I remember now are the artful ways director Emmanuel Borlaza employed to cover up her condition. Like making her wear oversize shirts and frilly blouses—as if Sharon needed more bulking up. Like putting a huge lamp shade right in the middle of the frame to obscure her bulge. It was hilarious.

REVIEW

But Cherie—she was fabulous. By the time she played Lavinia Arguelles, she had done "Problem Child," "Manila By Night" and "Oro, Plata, Mata." She had honed her villainous chops in one other Sharon movie, "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa."

In other words, Cherie Gil was a woman when she played Lavinia. An accomplished woman. She had gravitas, a forceful adult assurance that told you she didn't suffer fools gladly. Add to that those shoulder-padded power frocks, her hair teased by spray net to kingdom come, and lines purred with acid, and Pinoy cinema had itself a true diva. When she sang Air Supply's "I Can Wait Forever" in the movie, you at least forgave Cherie her slender voice. It IS conceivable for a performer of middling-to-no talent to become a so-called icon in the local biz. (Hello, Pops Fernandez.)

But Angelika as the new Lavinia ... Now who's the genius behind this casting?

Angelika is famous for ... RDL Products. She's pert, pretty and perky in a show-biz kind of way, which means you can count on her to laugh her tinkly laugh whenever she's asked the latest *chismis* about her, or her latest crushes, or, yes, her very challenging role as the new Cherie Gil in ABS-CBN's *sineserye*, otherwise known as the network's latest stab at scraping the bottom of the barrel.

So Angelika is supposed to be playing this high-flying, wildly successful singer who's out to smite her upstart competitor with a glacial stare or, failing that, with the most famous putdown in Pinoy pop culture. I've no idea how that *sabuyan ng tubig*—or was it *basagan ng baso*?—played out in the TV version, but I can tell you this. Angelika as Lavinia, at least from what I saw briefly, is nothing but a second-rate, trying-hard, uh, girl.

Yes, girl. She and Sarah Geronimo

TITLE/ H3

PETRON

Needs

SERVICE STATION DEALERS

for

	Locations	Required Cash Capital	Deadline for Submission of Application
1.	Mc Arthur Highway, Carmen, Pangasinan	P4.0M	10/30/06
2.	Solano, Nueva Vizcaya	P5.0M	10/31/06
3.	P. Makro, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite	P5.0M	10/31/06
4.	Molino-Paliparan Road, Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite	P6.0M	10/31/06
5.	Petron Legazpi Terminal, Lakandula Drive Legazpi City, Albay	P4.5M	10/31/06
6.	Tahao Road cor Alternate Road, Legazpi City, Albay	P4.5M	10/31/06

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:

a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : October 15, 2006
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Offices of Leyte and Biliran, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Time & Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Leyte	October 16-27, 2006	October 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	November 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Leyte, Palo, Leyte	(053)323-8882
Biliran	October 16-27, 2006	October 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	November 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Biliran, Naval, Biliran	(053)500-9279

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Divisions of Leyte and Biliran, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone numbers as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informally therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **Vicenta C. Alibangbang**
DBAC Chairman
Leyte

(Sgd.) **Jose R. Gaviola**
DBAC Chairman
Biliran

(PDI–Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

E.C. DE LUNA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

PRESENTLY IN NEED OF:

MATERIAL ENGINEERS (5)

BSCE graduate, must be licensed, male or female, single, with or without experience. Willing to be assigned in field. Must be BRS-DPWH Materials Engineer II accredited.

PROJECT MANAGER (4)

BSCE graduate, must be licensed, male or female, with five (5) years experience in construction of roads and bridges. Willing to be assigned in field.

OFFICE ENGINEERS (CIVIL ENGINEER) (3)

BSCE graduate, must be licensed, male or female, single, with or without experience. Willing to be assigned in field, with pleasing personality.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT SUPERVISORS (2)

BSME graduate, must be licensed, male, with or without experience. Willing to be assigned in field.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (1)

Female, at least 5 years of working experience. Good in handling accounting staff, with pleasing personality.

Qualified applicants may submit personally their application letter, resumé, transcript of record and 2x2 pictures to:

MS. ANALYN M. MALLARI
Rm. 1801 18th Flr. Atlanta Centre, Annapolis St.
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No.: (02) 721-5168 to 69
Fax No.: (02) 721-5159

URGENTLY NEEDED

FAMILY DRIVER

- Male, 30-35 years old with professional driver's license.
- Must have worked continuously as a driver for at least 5 years, preferably as a family driver.
- Has driven both manual and automatic transmission vehicles.
- Can do car maintenance and troubleshooting repairs.
- Good moral character; can give references from previous employers.
- Must be physically fit and in very good health; must be a NON-SMOKER.
- MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH METRO MANILA STREETS.
- Willing to stay-in.

For the qualified applicant, we offer a salary of P10,500.00 a month with free meals.

Apply PERSONALLY with Bio-data, photo and references to:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

CENTRAL NEGROS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(CENECO)
Cor. Gonzaga – Mabini Sts., Bacolod City

Qualifications:

- 30-50 Years Old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 31 October 2006.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

(PDI – Oct. 15 & 16, 2006)

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY WATER DISTRICT
City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

URGENTLY NEEDS

POSITION	SALARY GRADE	SALARY
Senior Engineer A	16	P 14,098.00 + allowances
– Bachelor's degree in Sanitary Engineering – Registered Sanitary Engineer (RAS 1080) With one year of relevant experience & four hours of relevant training		

Apply in person at: San Jose del Monte City Water District
Road 1, Minuyan, Sapang Palay
City of San Jose del Monte Bulacan

Bring comprehensive resumé and handwritten letter of application

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22; 631-0673; Telefax No. 635-9826

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : October 11, 2006
Loan No. : PH-200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2006-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools following the schedule below:

Equipment Package	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Bid Opening
B. Math and Physics Equipment	Starting on October 13, 2006	November 28, 2006
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipmeht		

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may inspect and obtain the bidding documents from the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, with Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6543 and 632-1361 local 2019. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph; http://www.procurementservice.org** or **http://www.sedip.ph.**
6. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date indicated in paragraph 2 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) in cash for each equipment package.
7. All bids shall be submitted together with the required bid security of not less than 2% of the total bid amount on the date indicated in paragraph 2 not later than 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. A pre-bid conference for the two (2) equipment packages shall be held at the address stated in paragraph 7 on October 26, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.
9. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

NEECO II
Area 2

NUEVA ECIJA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 2
Maharlika Highway, Diversion,
San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija
Tel./Fax: 044-4863668

The **Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) – Area 2** is inviting you to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE EXTENSION OF 7.120 KILOMETERS THREE – PHASE PRIMARY LINE that will supply the electricity requirements of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Dam located at Brgy. Singalat, Palayan City.

Deadline for the submission of company profile will be simultaneous with the Pre-bid Conference on **OCTOBER 24, 2006** at exactly **10:30 A.M.** at the Conference Room of NEECO II - Area 2. Bidding proper will be on **OCTOBER 27, 2006** at exactly **10:00 A.M.** Non-refundable registration fee is P3,000.00.

NEECO II Area-2 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waived defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to NEECO II Area-2.

(Sgd.) **CLARENCE ARISTON M. PAREDES**
PBAC Chairman
Cell No. 0917 985 8937

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **RAMON M. DE VERA**
General Manager

(PDI – Oct. 15 & 16, 2006)

INTERESTED IN MIGRATING TO THE UNITED STATES?

1. PROFESSIONALS (ACCOUNTANTS, ENGINEERS, I.T./ COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS, TEACHERS and ARCHITECTS)
2. HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS (PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS and REGISTERED NURSES)
3. INVESTORS and TREATY TRADERS
4. INTRA-COMPANY TRANFEREES
5. RELATIVES OF U.S. CITIZENS and GREEN CARD HOLDERS

THE IMMIGRATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES OF FELIX Q. VINLUAN
Unit 401 Paragon Tower Hotel
531 A. Flores St., Ermita, Manila 1000
Tel. No. 02-523-3035

OMENGAN CONSTRUCTION
& DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Calisitan Science City of Muñoz
Nueva Ecija

IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **Auto CAD Operator**
- **Material Engineer**
- **Surveyor**
- **Office Engineer**
- **Field Supervisor**
- **Heavy Equipment Mechanic**
- **Heavy Equipment Operator**
- **Site Superintendent**
- **Drivers**

All above positions require minimum 5 years experience. Preferably Nueva Ecija residence.

REQUIREMENTS : Comprehensive Resumé
Brgy. Clearance
Medical Certificate
SSS No.

Apply personally @ Calisitan Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
Contact Nos. : 0922-3404993 or 0918-8236083
Contact Person : Evangeline or Joanna

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3940 - Smart

Republic of the Philippines
11th Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 10, Davao City

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS, APPOINTMENT OF REHABILITATION RECEIVER AND APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION PLAN,

GOLDEN AGRI FARM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Petitioner.
x----------x

SP. PROC. NO. 8638-06

STAY ORDER

Petitioner, on September 20, 2006, filed herein petition alleging that it is a domestic corporation with principal office address at Gempesaw St., Davao City; that since its incorporation on February 12, 1990, it had been viable and financially profitable in the business of breeding, growing, and selling swine at its piggery; that due to the expansion and modernization of petitioner's piggery business, coupled with the Asian Currency Crisis, the devaluation of the Philippine peso and the sudden drop of swine product prices accompanied by a rise in the price of and other ingredients for feeds caused the rapid exhaustion of petitioner's readily available funds; that this lack of liquidity resulted in the accumulation of past due accounts of suppliers, thereby reducing inventory levels and credit limits and containing petitioner to obtain new loans and incur more debts to finance maturing supplier obligations; that anent thereto, its management foresees the impossibility of covering these obligations as they fall due and, in fact, few of the petitioner's creditors, such as the Land Bank of the Philippines have already initiated foreclosure proceedings upon petitioner's properties; that if the operations of petitioner corporation would be hampered by the moves of the creditors who are not paid on time, it would result in a more difficult process for the settlement of those obligations already maturing, and this would render impossible the payment of all other existing obligations with other creditors; be that as it may, petitioner is very optimistic that it will be able to cover and pay for all of its obligations, considering the upturn in the prices of swine products and the decline in the price of corn, as well as the increasing value of its real properties; that petitioner believes that it still has a financially sound and viable business which can and should be returned to financial health by the implementation of its proposed Rehabilitation Plan.

Finding the petition together with its annexes sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby:

1. Appoints Francisco J. Buencamino of Unit 103, Delsa Mansion 44 Scout Borromeo St., South Triangle, Quezon City 1100, as Rehabilitation Receiver with a bond in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (Php500,000.00) PESOS;
2. Stays the enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
3. Prohibits petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
4. Prohibits petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the petition;
5. Prohibits the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payment for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of the Stay Order;
6. Directs the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of the Stay Order;
7. Fixes the initial hearing of the petition on November 27, 2006, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning;
8. Directs petitioner to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks starting not later than seven (7) days from the issuance of this Order;
9. Directs all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve with the court and on the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings;
10. Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes to enable them to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing on November 27, 2006, otherwise they will be barred from participating in the proceedings of this case.

The petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Order and the Petition *(with annexes)* to the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by the Court, Francisco J. Buencamino of Quezon City, who is requested to manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment and if he accepts said appointment, to take his oath before the Branch Clerk of Court of this Court and post the corresponding bond as aforementioned in favor of the petitioner to guarantee the faithful performance of his functions as receiver, not later than fifteen (15) days from receipt of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN IN CHAMBERS this 21st day of September 2006, at Davao City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **JAIME V. QUITAIN**
Judge

JVQ.map0906
Copy furnished:

Atty. Cesar S. Europa
Europa, Dacanay, Cubelo, Europa & Flores Law Office
3rd Floor, Lopez Bldg., Candelaria St.,
Ecoland, Davao City

Francisco J. Buencamino
Unit 103, Delsa Mansion
44 Scout Borromeo St.,
South Triangle, Quezon City 1100

Securities and Exchange Commission
Juna Subdivision, Matina
Davao City

Office of the Clerk of Court
Hall of Justice
Ecoland, Davao City

(PDI - October 8 & 15, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **Security Services** for the Commission. Those who were previously registered need not register but shall be required to update the submitted registration requirements. The approved budget for the contract is **P3,500,000.00** and locally funded by the National Government.

Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **9 October 2006**, to be submitted not later than **23 October 2006, 5:00 p.m.**, through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **25-31 October 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **6 November 2006 at 2:00 p.m.** at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **November 20, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. and 20 November 2006 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes; one (1)** envelope containing the **eligibility requirements, two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/ execution in accordance with **"Republic Act 9184" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/ process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 15, 2006)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to bid/negotiate for the SALE/LEASE/JOINT VENTURE on an "as-is where-is" basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sq.m.)	Floor Price (PhP) Total	
I. SECOND OFFERING – SALE			
1. Cutcut, Angeles City, Pampanga	324	875,000	
2. Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac [a]	3,751	4,329,000	
3. San Jose, Mindoro Occidental [b]	10,000	3,000,000	
4. Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	4,912,000	
5. Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan [c]	1,394	4,321,000	
6. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	1,202	3,606,000	
7. Kasambagan, Cebu City [d]	597	3,014,000	
8. Kasambagan, Cebu City [e]	1,414	6,991,000	
II. NEGOTIATED SALE			
1. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	4,470	670,500	
2. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [f]	6,529	979,350	
3. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	2,705	4,719,000	
4. Salapungan, Tarlac City [a]	1,185	2,918,000	
5. Talomo, Davao City	421	1,263,000	
6. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan [g]	231	231,000	
7. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	315	315,000	
8. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	356	356,000	
9. Kayumanggi, Lipa City, Batangas	625	850,000	
10. Tagbilaran, Bohol	1,388	1,388,000	
11. Tagbilaran, Bohol	4,367	5,240,400	
12. Andal-Alino, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	396	356,000	
13. Gogon, Legazpi City	8,598	12,897,000	
III. NEGOTIATED LEASE			
Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas	8,962	120,400/mo.	1,445,000/yr.
IV. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE			
		Sale (PhP)	Lease (PhP)
1. **Alangan, Limay, Bataan** [a] Contiguous vacant lots with fence; ideal for industrial, residential subdivision and/or agricultural development	584,147	67,482,000	84,353/mo. 1,012,000/yr
2. **PNOC Housing Compound** in Bolo, Bauan, Batangas with existing 40 housing units, clubhouse, guesthouse located along a national road; ideal for industrial, commercial and/or residential development. *This Property is also open for* ***Joint Venture Development through public bidding***	59,323	128,684,000	475,768/mo. 5,709,206/yr.

[a] with informal dwellers
[b] with informal dwellers, 615.76 sq.m. portion leased to a private entity; also, a 540 sq.m. portion was traversed by a Brgy. Road
[c] 169 sq.m. portion affected by a provincial road project; also, a 26.5 portion is subject of a civil case
[d] with existing easement (area: 49 sq.m.)
[e] with existing easement (area: 142.91 sq.m.)
[f] net of 32 sq.m. portion which was sold to the owner of adjacent lot

Bid forms, Letter of Intent to Negotiate, Bidding/Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured after payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 during office hours of **October 16-27, 2006; Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm** from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on **October 30, 2006 (2:00pm)** and **November 8, 2006 (2:15pm)**, respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6.

For parties interested to bid for the **Joint Venture of PNOC Bauan Housing**, schedule of activities are as follows: 1) Submission of Letter of Intent to apply for eligibility (Oct. 16-23, 8am to 5pm); 2) Submission of eligibility documents (Oct. 24 - Nov. 7, 8am to 5pm); 3) Opening of eligibility documents (Nov. 8, 2:15pm); 4) Eligibility check, Issuance of Notice of Eligibility and bid documents to eligible bidders after payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 (Nov. 9-28, 8am to 5pm); 5) Pre-bid conference for all eligible bidders **(Nov. 29, 2pm)**; 6) Dropping of bids (Dec. 13, 8am to 2pm); and 7) Opening of bids **(Dec. 13, 2:15pm)** at the above address

Award of the sale/lease/joint venture of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID/ OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors.

For properties for negotiation (under items II, III and IV), offerors shall submit their Letter of Intent to PNOC starting the first working day after the first publication of this Notice and thereafter.

The Bidder/Offeror further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for sale/lease/joint venture to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles. The sale/lease/joint venture of the properties shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis and the winning bidder/offeror shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. If for any reason the above-mentioned dates are declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids/offers or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization of
PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI--Oct. 15 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 78; 732-31-06
E-mail Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph & mcell@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturers/retailers to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of **Hospital Supplies and Materials, for the 1st semester, January-June 2007; Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital Office/Medical Equipment for CY 2007.** Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.

Application forms for **ELIGIBILITY** shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fees of Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00), for Hospital Supplies and Materials and **Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00)** for Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital Office/Medical Equipment from **October 9, 2006 up to the date before the submission and opening of bids,** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and supporting documents shall **not be later than the day before the scheduled date of the submission and opening of bid per category.** Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

Interested Bidders can obtain the **BID DOCUMENTS** to the BAC Secretariat, located at the Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital from **October 16, 2006** up to the date before the opening of the bids by category upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and upon payment of non- refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the hospital Collection Unit.

CATEGORIES	APPROVED BUDGET COST (ABC)	CONTRACT PERIOD	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
• Drugs/Medicines Supplies (REGULAR)	Php12,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 2,500.00
(REVOLVING)	Php24,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 2,500.00
• Medical Supplies	Php 4,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 1,000.00
• Medical Gases & Oxygen	Php10,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 2,500.00
• Radiology Supplies	Php1,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 500.00
• Dietary Foodstuff Supplies	Php 5,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 1,000.00
• Janitorial Supplies	Php 1,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 500.00
• Maintenance Supplies	Php 3,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 1,000.00
• Linen Supplies	Php 1,500,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 500.00
• Laboratory Supplies/Reagent	Php 7,000,000.00	Jan.-June, 2007	Php 2,000.00
• Laboratory Reagents w/ Machine tie-up	Php 5,000,000.00	Jan.-Dec., 2007	Php 1,500.00
• Dental Supplies	Php 1,000,000.00	Jan.-Dec., 2007	Php 500.00
• Laundry Service	Php 1,000,000.00	Jan.-Dec., 2007	Php 1,000.00
• Janitorial Service	Php 8,000,000.00	Jan.-Dec., 2007	Php 2,000.00
• Hospital Office/Medical Equipment	Php 5,000,000.00	30 to 45 days per receipt of PO	Php 1,500.00

General PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on **October 27, 2006,** 9:00 am at SLH Amphitheater, San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

BID QUOTATIONS must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the time/dates specified below, which said bids will be opened to the Public at SACCL Function Room, unless announced otherwise, as follows:

CATEGORIES	OPENING	SCHEDULE
• Drugs/Medicines Supplies	9:01 am	November 13, 2006
• Laboratory Supplies/Reagents/		
• Laboratory Reagents w/ machine tie-up	1:31 pm	
• Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen	9:01 am	November 14, 2006
• Dietary Foodstuff Supplies	1:31 pm	
• Radiology Supplies	2:31 pm	
• Dental Supplies	3:01 pm	
• Janitorial/Maintenance/Linen Supplies	9:01 am	November 15, 2006
• Laundry/Janitorial Services	1:31 pm	
• Hospital Office/Medical Equipment	2:01 pm	November 17, 2006

Each *BID* must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the lump sum of the **Approved Budget Cost (ABC)** per category as participated in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS)

All above cited activities shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 3099552 and Property & Supply Office 3099517.

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, AND REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ELEONORITA E. REYES
Chairperson
SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by:
ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA
Medical Center Chief II
Posted at the G-EPS Website
(PDI – October 8 & 15, 2006)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project : Supply of Labor, tools and materials for the replacement of Two Air Handling Units.

Technical Specifications:
a. One (1) unit Air-Handling Unit (AHU-BUB); cap. 36,500 cfm; 196.8 gpm 58.2. sq. ft. coil face area; no. of rows/fins per inch 6/8; 25.0 max hp
b. One (1) Unit Air-Handling Unit (AHU-A1.B); cap. 18,300 cfm; 117.6 gpm; 35.3 sq.ft. coil face area; no. of rows/fins per inch 6/8; 10.0 max. hp.

Approved Budget for Contract is PhP1,847,452.99

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting October 12, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) only. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 17, 2006; 2:30 p.m., 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.).

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 27, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/ certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 27, 2006. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. : 632-832-3667;
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. : 632-551-5960
Website : www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) EVA MARI G. SALVADOR
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-Oct 8 & 15, 2006)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: Rehabilitation of NATIONAL ARTS CENTER (NAC) Cafeteria

Brief Project Description: The National Arts Center-Cultural Center of the Philippines will undertake the Rehabilitation of the NAC Cafeteria. The said Cafetena was destroyed by fire in the year 2001. The design of the Cafetena is in Phase-1. The CCP will require the services of the contractor to complete the work.

The CCP intends to apply the sum of THREE MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FOURTEEN AND 25/100 (P3,187,714.25) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the said project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The CCP now calls for the submission of Letter of Intents (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project "Repair and Rehabilitation of CCP Main Theater Backstage Ceiling." Bidders should possess a **valid PCAB license** applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, **have completed a similar contract** with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs on or before October 17, 2006, 5:30 pm 3/F BAC Secretariat, Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Building) Roxas Blvd., Pasay City and secure the Eligibility documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: October 27, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest of outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from eligible bidders will be opened.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat on or before October 27, 2006. Bidders may obtain further information from the same office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting October 13, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on November 03, 2006; 1:30 p.m., 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.).

Eligible bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before November 17; 1:30 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on November 17, 2006; 1:30 p.m. at the 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders's representatives.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. : 632-832-3667;
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(Sgd.) EVA MARI G. SALVADOR
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-Oct. 8 & 15, 2006)

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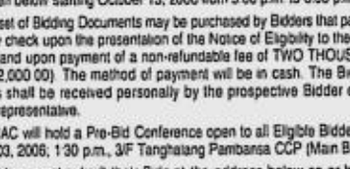

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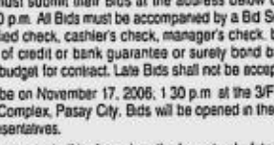

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•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

QC OWN CR FF 5.5 09158795110

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Girls Only. Riverside Village Ortigas Ext., Pasig City. Txt 09262580001

BEDSPACE

MALE BEDSPACE IN A CONDO ORTIGAS CNTR 0920-9232484

Mkti nr Ayala 1T Lady 6974697

New BedSpaces 4 Ladies 8435555 or 09178986809

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MKT. CONDOS 09209126709

ROCKWELL MANANSALA 1BR SEMI-FURN 0918-9402975

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'05 Dec Innova J Red Gas 7T mileage 680T Neg M/T 0921-4708899

LITE ACE '91 125T 09178976139

RUSH SALE NISSAN CEFIRO Elite 2000 A/T Sunroof Good Cond. P360K Neg. low mil - Fill 8927668

97 BMW 725 Turbo Diesel GREAT COND., DARK BLUE 1.2M NEG. 0920-9633137

CARS

02'SERENA T600 9121163

'03 CAMRY 2.0G 16KM 9175811001

04 Everest 4x4 740T 9317941

05M MONTERO SPORTS 4X4 LCAL MATIC 1ST OWN CLOR SILVER 1250M 8990215

06 Innova 680T 09189165673

'99 BMW 528i 0917-8195326

CARS

MITS RVR 240T 09178227788

PAJERO JR 385T 09178227788

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439-1117 OR 0917-8342020
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1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

2GB MEMORY STICK PRO 6T 4GB SD CARD 09209079510

R. Isidro '77 Mural "AMIHAN" 4x4m Abstract 350T 426-6310

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

HOME APPLIANCE

WHIRLPOOL Washing / Dryer Mach 6470585 ; 9178489913

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE! 40 SUNRISE ST. NEW MLA QC OCT. 15 7AM-5PM

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PETS

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Elect wheelchair 09178227788

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that Stock Cert. #2049 of Professional Services Inc. issued to MOISES ROMEO Q. FAJARDO was declared lost. If found please return to Corporate Office, Medical City Hospital, Pasig City. (PDI-Oct. 15, 22&29, 2006)

AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-Ilog Marilao, Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of APRIL 2006 willl be Auctioned on OCT. 24 8:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- Oct. 08, 2006)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of APR. 2006 willl be Auctioned on OCT. 24, 10:00am. Lanuza & Sons Autioneer.
(PDI- OCT.15, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice hereby given that the estate of the late Chua Kok Hiong a.k.a. PHILIP UY was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No.35 Page No.8 Book No.531 Series of 2006 of notary public Lucita Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City
(PDI - Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO T. GONZALES and JUANA C. GONZALES has been extradudicially settled among their heirs Before Notary Public ROGELIO AGOOT as Doc No.198 Page No.42 Book No. XVIII Series 2006 (PDI- Oct. 15,22 &29'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO G. NATERA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#192 Page#42 Book#XIII Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Luis Marcos P. Laurel of Makati City.
(PDI-Oct. 15, 22, 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development 4
BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Training & Teaching
(Batangas City)

Project Reference Number: 06-02
Security Services
Treatment and Rehabilitation Center
Tagaytay City
October 12, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Batangas Regional Hospital, through its Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project for Treatment & Rehabilitation Center, Tagaytay City.

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget Estimate	Pre Bid Conference	Issuance of Bid Documents	Opening of Bids	Amount of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)
SECURITY SERVICES	P1,620,000.00	November 15, 2006 1:30 pm	Nov. 6-10, 2006 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Supply Office BRH	Nov. 29, 2006 1:30 pm	P1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification on the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,000.00) to the Batangas Regional Hospital Cashier.

The Batangas Regional Hospital assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ALFRED ALLEN E. BUENAFE, MD, FPCS, FPSGS
HBAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF BRIGIDA SAN JUAN OMAÑA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS AS PER DOC 193 PAGE 40 BOOK 28 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. NESTOR C. CRUZ OF CAINTA RIZAL (PDI-10/1, 8, 15, '06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATHERINE TUCAY ANDRADA was settled extrajudicially among her heirs before Notary Public Daniel Balanoba of Quezon City as per Doc. No. 24 Page No. 6 Book No. 120 Series of 2006
(PDI-Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CONCEPCION M. CRUZ OF MARIKINA CITY HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS PER DOC. #131, PAGE 27, BOOK 104 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JOSE L. STA. ANA. (PDI-OCT 8,15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that SMIC Stock Cert.#501 issued to MARIA LOURDES D. MALEON was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 15, 22, 29, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that ORIENTAL PETROLEUM CORP. Stock Certificate 17510;26532;6899 for 909967 shares issued to CARMEN S. QUIAMBAO were lost.If no contest received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Oct. 1,8 &15,2006)

PERSONAL

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BUSINESS FOR SALE

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BS CHEMISTRY Graduate Contact # 9849722

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Email resumé at art6157@aol.com

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WANTED: FEMALE COUNTER PERSON MUST BE HS GRADUATE SEND YOUR BIO DATA WITH PICTURE BY MAIL TO UNIT 21-A IBM PLAZA EASTWOOD CITY BAGUMBAYAN QUEZON CITY ATTN: BETHE DE JESUS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Acctg. Clerk Graduate Single Internet Exp. Call 724-9330 & 0919-8255398 Female

HIRING 25 Ofc. Staff Coll. Grad/level 0918-4920805 Jun

Pharmacist 6915513 0917-8512031

URGENT!!! Yaya Tutor 28-40yo Fluent in English College Lvl. 2yrs exp. Toddler Comp. Reqt's 7262407/7250162

Aggressive palay buying ready this month

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REITERATED that it is ready to undertake aggressive palay buying for the main harvest starting this month, with its logistics ready as early as a month ago, including close to P1 billion in procurement funds already dispersed to all NFA branches nationwide.

NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. said NFA's readiness for aggressive palay buying this year was discussed in a meeting with farmer leaders from the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the National Federation of Peasant Women (Amihan) on Oct. 2. During the meeting, KMP and Amihan also presented a resolution calling, among others, for an increase in the palay support price from the current P10 to P15 per kilogram.

Tan explained that drastically increasing the government support price at this time would only create a problem for both the farmers and the consumers. "At P15/kg buying price for palay, the NFA will be forced to buy less and therefore the benefits of the support price will also be limited to a lesser number of farmers. Besides, the rule-of-thumb in rice marketing dictates that the selling price of rice is double the buying price of palay. Rice at P30/kg is certainly high for consumers," Tan explained.

He said the matter of increasing the palay support price is an interagency concern not just NFA's and it is based on a thorough study of the parameters of production and marketing as the government is duty-bound to protect the interests of both the farmer-producers and the consumers.

Tan said that a recent report from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) showed that at the current palay support price of P10/kg, the farmers are effectively getting some 30 percent return on investment as production cost is estimated to be between P7.80 and P7.90/kg.

Field reports reaching the NFA also showed that palay prices during the summer harvest from April to May this year averaged at P11.40/kg nationwide, a price higher than the NFA support price.

Tan explained that instead of increasing the palay support price, the NFA is pushing for a reduction in the cost of production. "Greater productivity is a win-win situation for both the farmers and consumers and the NFA can assist the agriculture department in achieving this situation through an assiduous effort in reducing post-harvest losses," he said.

For your Classified and Obit Ads please call
897-8425

Invitation to Bid No. UNFPA/PHI/2006-2

UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) invites bids for **Medical Equipment** for its 6th Country Programme of Assistance to the Philippines.

The complete set of bid documents, instructions and list of medical equipment for bidding will be available at the following address from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting 16 October 2006.

UNFPA (UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND)
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue
Makati
Attention: **Ms. Yong Peralta**

Bids will be received at the same address until 5:00 p.m. **on October 27, 2006** and the technical proposals component of the bids publicly opened at **9:00 a.m., 30 October 2006 at this office.** Bids received after the stipulated date and time will be **INVALIDATED**, and returned as is.

For additional information regarding this invitation to bid, please contact **Ms. Yong Peralta** by telephone at **(63-2) 901-0318**, by facsimile at **(63-2) 901-0348** or e-mail at **yperalta@unfpa.org.ph.**

IMPORTANT: Faxed bids, unsealed bids and bids sent via email will not be accepted.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the outside of the envelope clearly marked with the following:

Invitation to bid no. **UNFPA/PHI/2006-02**

(PDI – Oct. 15, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following are no longer connected with **GLOBALFLEX CORPORATION**, with office address at Doña Julita Bldg., 112 Kamuning Road cor. K-E St. Quezon City. Any transaction entered into by these individuals in behalf of GlobalFlex Corp. shall not be honored by us.

ALLAN JOSEPH E. CALDINA
Effective
Nov. 23, 2003

JOANNA B. LUNAS
Effective
Nov. 11, 2002

WINIFRED M. TRINIDAD
Effective
Dec. 15, 2004

LEO M. MURING
Effective
July 1, 2003

PRINCE V. SABLAN
Effective
Sept. 9, 2005

RESTITUTO S. FELOMINO JR.
Effective
March 3, 2006

RICARTE M. GABAY JR.
Effective
June 19, 2002

RITCHIE T. CARPIO
Effective
March 20, 2006

CHRISTOPHER S. MIRASOL
Effective
Sept. 10, 2004

For further information please contact us at (02) 925-0660 / (02) 920-3203.

BY: GLOBALFLEX MANAGEMENT

(PDI - Oct. 15, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NORDAN "SPOIL" PONCE

ROBERTO "BOB" DAANTON, JR.

This is to inform the public that **Mr. Nordan B. Ponce** and **Mr. Roberto L. Daanton, Jr.** are no longer connected with **ACABAR MARKETING INTERNATIONAL, INC.** Any transaction entered by them for and on behalf of Acabar and its client, **NOKIA PHILIPPINES, INC.** shall not be honored

(PDI - Oct. 15, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Official Receipt number **105262** of SCANASIA OVERSEAS, INC. is missing and considered null and void.

For further inquiries, please call our office @ 815-0123.

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 15, 2006)

For your Classified and Obit Ads please call:

897-8425

OBITUARIES

TISHA

INFINITELY LOVED AND REMEMBERED
(14 August 1957 – 15 October 1994)

HOLY MASSES FOR **TISHA** WILL BE OFFERED TODAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006 ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING, AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL *Pasig City*	5:00 AM
SANTISIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH *UST, España, Manila*	6:00 AM
ST. JUDE SHRINE *J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila*	6:30 AM
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT OF PERPETUAL ADORATION *M. Hemady cor. 11th St., New Manila, Q.C.*	7:00 AM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH *Greenhills, San Juan*	8:00 AM
NAT'L SHRINE OF ST. MICHAEL AND THE ARCHANGELS *Gen. Solano St., San Miguel, Manila*	9:00 AM
SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH *Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila*	10:00 AM
SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH *Kamuning, Q.C.*	10:30 AM
SAN MARTIN DE PORRES CHAPEL *P. Galvan – L. Guinto St., Malate, Manila*	12:00 NN
STO. NIÑO PARISH CHURCH *Tondo, Manila*	5:00 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	6:15 PM
SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH *Quezon Ave., Q.C.*	7:00 PM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH *Lantana St., Q.C.*	7:15 PM
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE *New Manila, Q.C.*	7:30 PM

"The Lord has taken away my sadness and surrounded me with joy. I will never stop praising Him. I will give thanks to the Lord forever and ever."

In Loving Memory on the **25TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY** of

Jose Maria (Joey) Escaler

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on October 15, 1981.

Holy Masses will be offered today, Sunday, October 15, 2006 at the following churches:

1.	Mary the Queen, Greenhills	6:00 AM
2.	Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 PM
3.	Our Lady of EDSA Shrine	12:00 NN
4.	Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	7:30 AM
5.	Rockwell Plant Chapel, Ateneo	6:00 PM
6.	St. Andrew, Bel-Air	7:30 AM
7.	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Broadway	7:15 AM
8.	Christ the King, E. Rodriguez	6:00 AM
9.	Immaculate Conception Church, Lantana, Cubao	8:30 AM
10.	Pink Sisters, Hemady	6:00 AM

We, his loving family, remember **Joey** very especially today, and request all his loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers for him.

In Loving Memory
on the **FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY** of

RAFAEL P. CRUZ, JR.

(December 4, 1938 - October 15, 2005)

We, his family, relatives and friends offer Mass intentions for the eternal repose of his soul, at the following Churches:

Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills, SJ	7:00 AM
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, SJ	7:15 AM
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	10:00 AM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM
St. Jerome Emiliani Sta. Susana, Ayala Alabang	6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM
Parish of Jesus Lord of Divine Mercy, Mapayapa Vill. II, Q.C.	7:00 AM
Sto. Niño de Tondo Parish, Manila	7:00 AM
San Sebastian Parish, Quiapo, Manila	7:00 AM
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave., Q.C.	12:00 NN
Our Lady of Peace, Edsa Shrine	12:15 PM
Church of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	7:00 AM

Mass will be held on October 15, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the **SANCTUARIO de STA ISABEL**, Malolos City, Bulacan where he's laid to rest.

LA FUNERARIA CATALINA
Division of Paz Memorial Services

We, also known as **PAZ LIFE**, are pleased to announce that our funeral service division has been in operation since October 1, 2006 at 1501 CM Recto cor. T. Mapua Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Please bear with us while renovation work is in progress and we continue to provide funeral services to the community.

Tels: 749-4319, 749-95-03, 740-45-80, 749-19-98

HECTOR O. DEL ROSARIO
President
PAZ MEMORIAL SERVICES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AND BANK-TO-BANK PAYMENTS

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

PACAP turns 20

THE PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA COMMUNITY Assistance Program (PACAP) celebrates 20 years of significant partnerships between the Australian Government and many Filipino non-government organizations, people's organizations and local government units that have created opportunities to help reduce poverty and promote sustainable and equitable development in the Philippines. The five-month celebration that kicks off this October 2006 and culminates with a 3-day national forum in February 2007 will include a series of roadshows with trade fairs, games, exhibit and a song writing competition that highlights the fruits of PACAP undertakings in different communities in the country.

Relying on the community spirit that has been the key to the success of PACAP, each venue will take on the color and flavor designed by the communities whose lives have been touched by PACAP.

The festivities will take place in the following provinces where PACAP had been active: Bohol (Inabangga, October 11, Albor, October 13, Dagohoy, October 15, Carmen, October 17); Iloilo (October 21), Capiz (October 24), Aklan (October 27), Northern Samar (November 8,10,12,14,16), Agusan del Sur (November 25,27,29), Surigao del Norte (Surigao del Norte City December 5, Siargao Island December 8, Dinagat Island December 10, Lake Mainit December 12), Cagayan de Oro (December 16), Misamis Occidental (January 8, 10, 12, 14, 2007), Cotabato City (January 24, 2007), South Cotabato (January 27, 29, 31, 2007), Ateneo de Naga, Bicol (February 5, 2007) , UP Diliman (February 11, 2007), Davao City (a National Forum from February 21-23, 2007).

PACAP is a program of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and since 1986 it has supported community-initiated, economically sustainable, ecologically sound, and gender responsive development projects through direct funding assistance and multi-level capability building in partnership with local organizations.

6th PTAA Golf Cup set

THE MUCH-AWAITED GOLF TOURNAMENT is set to unfold as the 6th PTAA Golf Cup tees off on the lush greens of Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna.

More than 180 participants are expected to attend this exciting golf tourney which will tee-off on Oct. 16.

Philippine Airlines as the Co-Presentor in coordination with the Northwest Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Amadeus Marketing Philippines, Inc, Galileo Asia, LLC- Philippine Branch, Abacus Distribution Systems Philippines, Inc. Blue Cross, Boracay Tropics, SEAIR, Skynet Travel, Swatch Golf Shoes/ Trident International are the sponsors of the 6th PTAA Golf Cup is an annual competition among travel and tourism's top executives, their clients and friends.

The event, which will be divided into two divisions - Men's and Ladies' - will also feature categories such as Hole-In-One, Nearest to the Pin and Longest Drive .

Registration will start on the day of the tournament itself, Oct. 16 from 5:30 a.m. to 7:3 a.m. Players who will be arriving past 8:30 a.m. will be allowed to play provided there is still a flight that he or she can join. Tee off shall start at 7:30 a.m.

For further inquiries contact the tournament organizers at (632) 5520026 to 29 or email them at ptaa@pldtsl.net.

DOLE to enroll 30T sacadas in PhilHealth

ABOUT 30,000 SACADAS OR MIGRATORY sugar workers whose employment has always been seasonal and burdened with risks stand to become the latest enrollees of the Philhealth indigent program.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that the program is part of the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE's) response to providing social protection to poor and vulnerable sectors as part of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's poverty alleviation program.

Brion said during its initial implementation, the program will cover sacadas working in Regions 3, 4A and 6. This will be expanded to all sugar producing regions in the country later on, he said.

Citing a report from Director Alex E. Maraan of the DOLE's Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW), Brion said the DOLE is targeting 2,250 sacadas from the three regions for its initial phase.

He added that sacadas are highly mobile as they depend on where work is available and from their recruiters' ability to secure contracts for them. As a result, benefits that are due them, like the social amelioration bonus, are often forfeited or they are deprived of privileges enjoyed by the regular workers, Brion said.

Also, he said that the condition of work of these sacadas is marked with destitution, difficulties and almost exploitative arrangements as contracted (pakyaw) rates are being applied during harvest of sugarcanes in plantations.

"These workers, in most cases, receive their remuneration in advance to leave to their families while they venture to faraway places guided by agents who arrange with sugar planters with advance payments as well," Brion said.

"Considering their contribution to the sugar industry and for them to receive a just share in sugar production, a Philhealth benefit program for them is long overdue," he added.

Brion further said that the initial source of fund will come from the forfeited unclaimed and undistributed P2.7 million cash bonus from the P10.00 sugar levy under the Social Amelioration Program for Sugar Workers as mandated from the Republic Act 6982 (Sugar Amelioration Act of 1982).

JOB Market

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006
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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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For brighter horizons... look higher.

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We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and the drive to succeed.

Inbound Customer Care Representatives
(Alabang, Commonwealth, or Makati)

Inbound Customer Care Representatives - Health Care
(Makati)
Now hiring for our pilot batch.

Outbound Customer Care Representatives
(Makati)

Technical Customer Care Representatives
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

Outbound Customer Care Representatives - Collection
(Ortigas)

Financial Service and Sales Associates
(Ortigas)

Inbound / Outbound Customer Care Representatives - Bilingual
(Ortigas - email resume to alex.raymundo@convergys.com)
Daytime openings for Korean speaking agents, knowledgeable in computers, Internet and proficient in MS Excel.

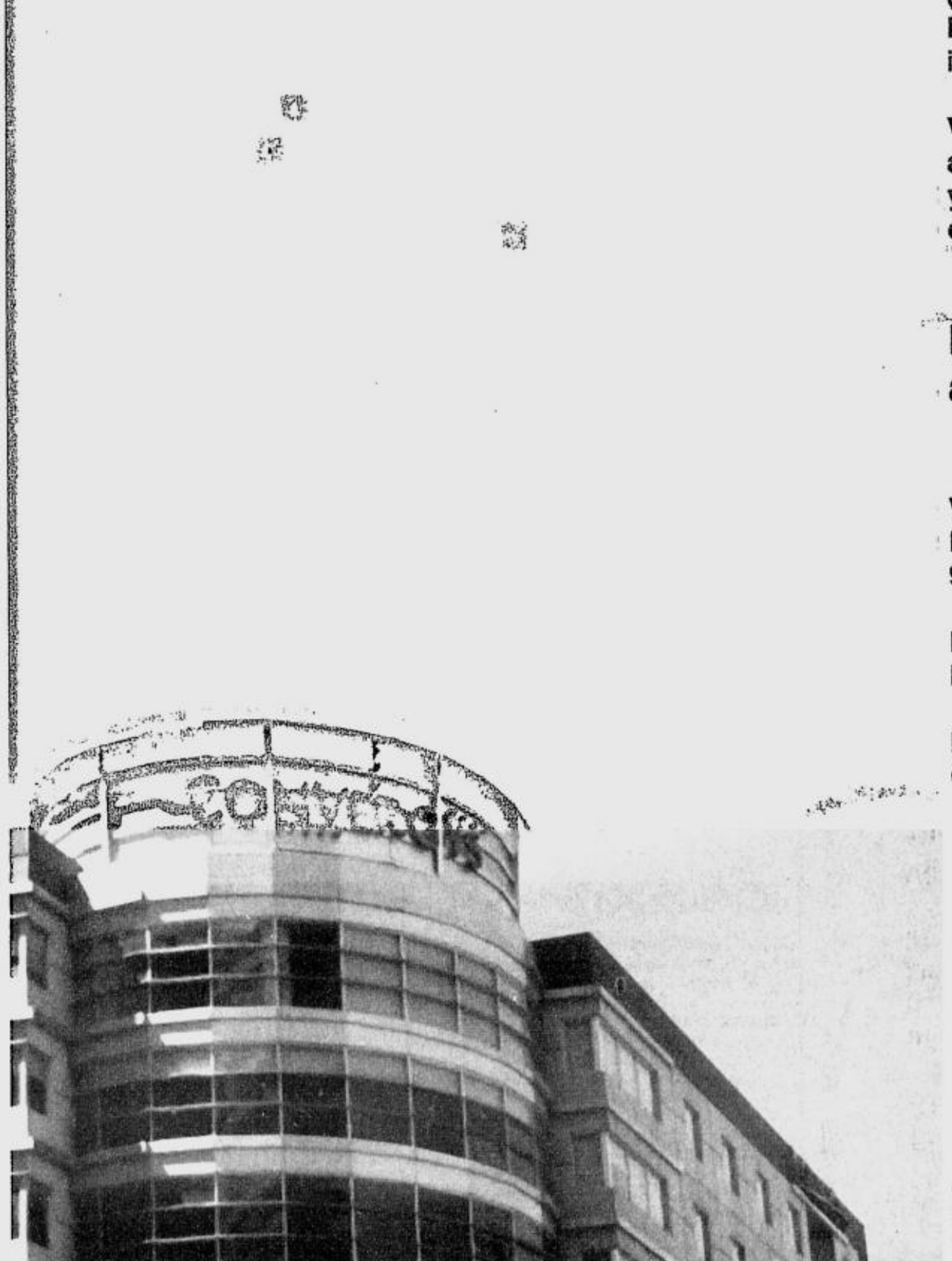
Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and experience faster processing. You may also email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com or call our recruitment hotline at (02)581-5760.

Be hired for one of our premium accounts and receive a P15,000 Sign Up BONUS!

We accept walk-in applicants in our Alabang site from Mondays to Fridays, 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12nn.

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.



RECRUITMENT SITES

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032)416- 5810

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- Numerous professional growth opportunities
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- Monthly & quarterly prize drawings

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westemployment.com

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Technical Support Representatives
College grads with computer-related degrees and IT professionals are needed to provide technical assistance to internet users. Excellent English communication skills required as well as strong working knowledge of computer and internet-related issues. Your previous experience will earn you more per hour!

Customer Care Representatives
Put your customer-oriented skills to use earning great money handling incoming customer calls in the healthcare or wireless phone industries. Depending upon assigned client, medical background or billing experience preferred. Excellent computer knowledge and English-speaking skills required.

New Professional Technical Staff Opportunities!
We're looking for people who have practical experience and education in UNIX Administrator and/or NT Windows Administrator. Positions available include:

- **Technical Support Specialist**
- **Systems Administrator**
- **Systems Analyst**
- **Programmer Analyst**

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Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of the following:

Sales Manager

The Sales Manager will be directly responsible in monitoring and developing sales and business strategies. He/she is also responsible in managing account executives and in meeting sales team objectives.

- Develop effective advertising and events packages
- Present events concepts to key accounts
- Maintain good business relations with key accounts
- Monitor performance of Account Executives(AEs)
- Conduct coaching and facilitate training sessions with AEs
- Prospect new local and international business opportunities
- Ensure Sales Quota for the team is achieved

REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising or any business course
- At least 3 years Management/Sales experience
- Articulate and possess exceptional presentation skills
- Computer literate
- Strong leadership and business sense to train and manage a sales team
- Creative in formulating sales strategies
- Aggressive in achieving sales targets
- Pleasing personality

Interested SM applicants can email their resumés to dbermudez@hip.ph

Print Production Assistant

The Print Production Assistant will be directly involved in the scheduling, organization, supervision, and monitoring of the publication of the company's titles and projects, and assist the Print Production Supervisor in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities.

REQUIREMENTS:
- single, 19-31 years old, college graduate
- preferably with some pre-press experience and knowledge of printing processes
- computer literate, with knowledge of Adobe CS and other related applications
- punctual, organized, and methodical
- knowledgeable in color and design theory

Interested PPA applicants can email their resumés to cgarperio@hip.ph or wapakkk@yahoo.com

Account Executive

The Account Executive will have the primary responsibility of acquiring advertising placements for assigned Hinge Inquirer Publication magazines.

- Generate new revenue through sales of advertising placements and event sponsorships according to set company quotas
- Prospecting
- Conduct of sales presentations
- Development of proposals
- Negotiation/Closing
- Account Management
- Participation in marketing initiatives/events

REQUIREMENTS:
- Male/Female, 21 to 30 yrs old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Advertising/Management, Sales & Marketing, or equivalent
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication

Interested AE applicants can email their resumés to aagbayani@hip.ph or msmyth@hip.ph

Editorial Assistant

The Editorial Assistant will be responsible in helping the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial team in accomplishing all requirements of the assigned magazine. He/she will be working closely with the Editorial Supervisor and Editorial Manager for apt tasks.

REQUIREMENTS:
- between 19-23 years old
- a graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree), from UP, UST, Ateneo, La Salle or UA&P
- equipped with exceptional communication skills in both written and spoken English and Filipino
- organized, resourceful, and creative
- able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- willing to work overtime

Interested EA applicants can email their resumés to egubat@hip.ph or eva.gubat@gmail.com

hinge inquirer
PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may also bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm ● Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

Our company is currently undergoing an exciting phase of growth in its leisure and entertainment business. We are seeking creative individuals to fill the following positions:

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Job Responsibilities:-
The ideal candidate is required to design and develop wide range of interior designing projects for the various companies under the Group

Requirements:-
- Degree holder in Interior Design or equivalent
- At least 5 years relevant working experience in the leisure and entertainment industry
- Good presentation and communication skills for coordination with clients, authorities and consultants
- Strong design flair in the leisure and entertainment concepts
- Full of drive to produce diverse range of interior designs
- Familiar with detailing – drawings & development, ADOBE Photoshop, AUTOCAD, Microsoft Word & Excel

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES (FEMALES)

Job Responsibilities:-
Successful candidates will be required to assist the Outlet Managers in business development and customer service as well as the daily operations of the Outlets.

Our Requirements:-
- Candidates must possess at least a Degree/Diploma holder in Hotel, Marketing, Business or related discipline.
- Candidates with relevant working experience in hotel / recreational / gaming industry will be an added advantage.
- Pleasant disposition, good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Candidates MUST be prepared to work on shift duties and weekends (Saturdays and Sundays).

Excellent remuneration and benefits package await the right candidates who fit the above description.

Please send in your comprehensive resume, including details of work experience, present and expected salaries, contact telephone number and a recent passport-sized photograph on or before 27 **October 2006** to **PACIFIC PALM CORPORATION**, 6/F Ramon Magsaysay Center, Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila, or call 522-8907 for more information, or send via e-mail to **lella@pacificpalm.com.ph.**

JOB OPENING

A garment manufacturer located in Bagbaguin, Valenzuela is looking for:

1. SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC
– with experience

2. ENCODER/OFFICE CLERK
– Computer literate
– 20-25 years old
– single/female

Fax or e-mail resumé at
#983-69-21
or **kentuckymfg@gmail.com**

URGENTLY NEEDED!

GENERAL CLERK
Qualifications:
- Female, 20 to 25 years old
- With or without experience
- Open for all BSBA graduate/undergraduate

ESTIMATOR
Qualifications:
- Female, 20 to 28 years old
- With or without experience
- Open for all BSCE graduate/undergraduate

Apply personally/send your resumé with picture to:

PETR'ete & ICTHUS Finishing Systems, Inc.
Suite 102 ABC Bldg., Marylown Circle,
Greenfields 1 Subd., Novaliches, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 419-2436; 419-1306; 418-3480

NCO SM GROUP

JOB FAIR

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

October 16 -20, 2006 9AM to 5PM

4th Floor Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communications Center,
ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia Ave., Q. C.
Tel. Nos. 981-7564; 981-7586; 981-7557 to 60
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

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Up to Php 18,000 basic rate*
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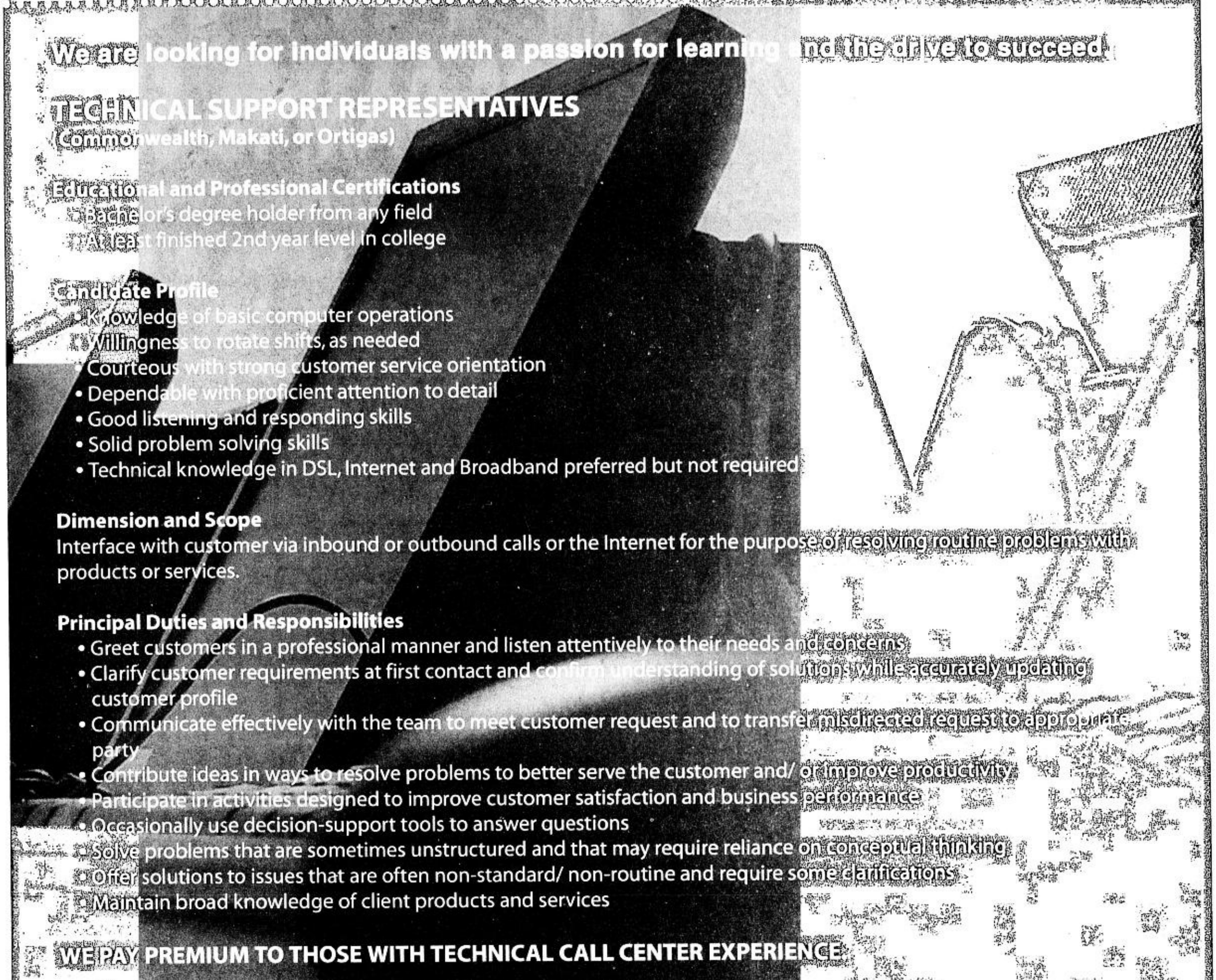

We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and the drive to succeed

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

Educational and Professional Certifications
- Bachelor's degree holder from any field
- At least finished 2nd year level in college

Candidate Profile
- Knowledge of basic computer operations
- Willingness to rotate shifts, as needed
- Courteous with strong customer service orientation
- Dependable with proficient attention to detail
- Good listening and responding skills
- Solid problem solving skills
- Technical knowledge in DSL, Internet and Broadband preferred but not required

Dimension and Scope
Interface with customer via inbound or outbound calls or the Internet for the purpose of resolving routine problems with products or services.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities
- Greet customers in a professional manner and listen attentively to their needs and concerns
- Clarify customer requirements at first contact and confirm understanding of solutions while accurately updating customer profile
- Communicate effectively with the team to meet customer request and to transfer misdirected request to appropriate party
- Contribute ideas in ways to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/ or improve productivity
- Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance
- Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions
- Solve problems that are sometimes unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking
- Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/ non-routine and require some clarifications
- Maintain broad knowledge of client products and services

WE PAY PREMIUM TO THOSE WITH TECHNICAL CALL CENTER EXPERIENCE

We also offer a world of opportunities to:

Inbound and Outbound Customer Care Representatives

Inbound Customer Care Representatives – Health Care

Outbound Customer Care Representatives – Collections

Financial Service and Sales Associates

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and experience faster processing. You may also email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com or call our recruitment hotline at (02)581-5760.

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins from Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 295 Smart/AMP Talk & Text.

RECRUITMENT SITES

Ortigas Office
3rd Floor, Rockwell
Equitable Tower
ADB Avenue, Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02) 857-7678

Makati Office
Convergys Grill
6796 Ayala Ave. cor.
Salcedo St. Legaspi Village
Makati City
(02) 756-7188

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas Street
Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills
Cebu City
(032) 416-5810

Commonwealth Office
Dillman Commercial Center
76 Don Mariano Marcos
Avenue, Dillman, Quezon City
(02) 456-7088

UP-Ayala Office
Level 3, St. Thomas Square
160 Esperanza Boulevard
cor. Padre Faura
Ermita, Manila
(02) 416-2006

Alabang Office
Block 4, Nottingate
Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City
(02) 581-1688

CONVERGYS
Thinking Outdoing

JOB Market

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006
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P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Where You Find The Best.

By delivering the best customer experience through the global execution of our direct business model, Dell has become the world's leading computer systems company. In 2006, Dell continued to outpace the industry worldwide and in every region where we compete. Overall revenue increased to $56 billion, with our non-U.S. operations fueling the fastest growth and registering an all-time high. With over 75,000 team members in 50 countries, we are confident that we are best positioned to grow and gain an even larger share of our $1.4-trillion industry in the years ahead. As one of the most recognized brands in the world, we are acknowledged by Fortune magazine as one of America's top ten 'Most Admired Company' and ranks second on the 2006 Harris Poll of "Best Brands". Join Dell and you'll discover why there are opportunities only a global company can provide.

Careers at Dell. Consider the possibilities.

DELL RECRUIT — TENHKOU

Walk-in to our hiring fair and you could walk out with more than just a job. Gain valuable insights on "Work-Life Balance in a Call Center" at our free seminar. Remember to bring relevant documents as interviews will be conducted on the day of your visit.

When : Oct 16 and 17, 2006 (Monday and Tuesday), 9am to 6pm

Where : 2/F, North Parking Building, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

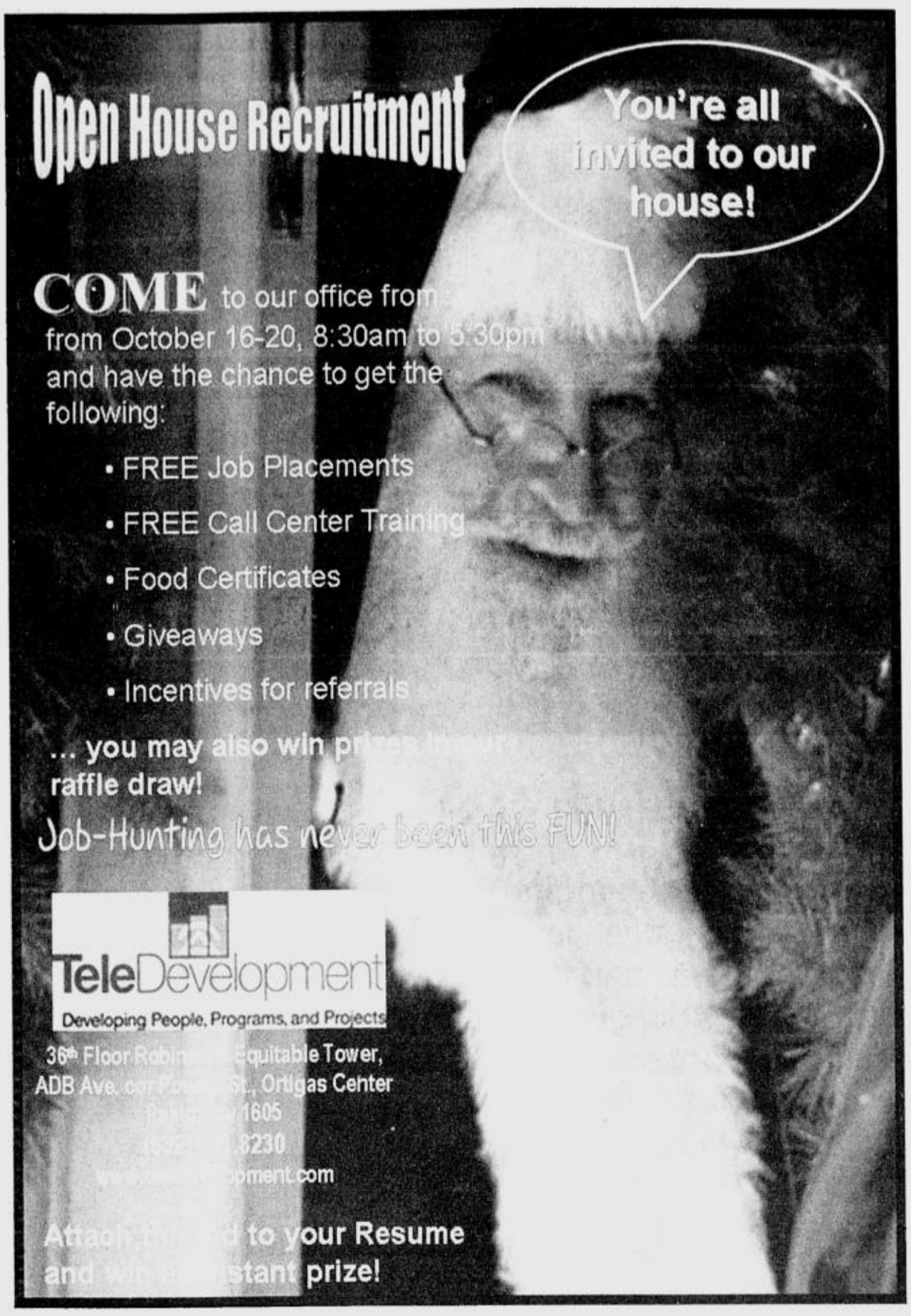
Who we are hiring:

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

- Graduates of Computer Science, Engineering, IT or related field preferred
- Those with at least 6 months of experience at a Call Center would have an advantage
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Prepared to work on a rotating shift schedule

The Dell Contact Center is located at the newly opened SM Mall of Asia at 2/F North Parking Building, SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines.

DELL™
Consider the possibilities



One of the leading CONSUMER banks in the country URGENTLY needs :

GROUP HEAD
(REMEDIAL AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT)

who would effectively resolve/manage Non-Performing Assets.

If you possess the following :

- Graduate of any four-year course with MBA degree
- With extensive experience in collection and remedial activities on all types of consumer, retail and wholesale lending; ROPOA management and disposition of various types of personal and real estate properties
- With excellent negotiation and presentation skills
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- Results oriented, people oriented, compliance conscious and a team player

CREDIT SUPERVISION & RISK MANAGEMENT HEAD

- Graduate of a four- year course; MBA graduate or with earned units is an advantage; with excellent written & oral communication skills
- Experience in credit supervision, policy formulation, evaluation and credit reviews
- Very good knowledge and application of BASEL I and II requirements

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) HEAD

- Graduate of any Information Technology - related course; MBA graduate or with earned units is an advantage
- With extensive experience in management of IT projects and/or organization
- With technical knowledge of banking applications and systems
- Capable of translating high level business plans into strategic IT plans
- Excellent communication skills to be able to effectively network with both internal and external parties

Please send your application letter, resume, transcript of records, diploma, and 2x2 photo on or before October 20, 2006 to :

BOX 100
C/O PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5TH Floor Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City – 1550

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10 AM to 6PM

BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MFG. CORP
#9 K. PORONG STREET, PUNTURIN, VALENZUELA CITY
URGENTLY NEEDED
One (1) Computer Programmer
Strong development expertise in MS-SQL Server 2000 including Server reporting services and Microsoft Access Programming
Must be independent, resourceful, results-oriented, a self motivated team player and ability to multi- task
Highly analytical, highly creative, and has excellent interpersonal skills.
Strong communication skills (English written and oral)
Excellent technical solving problem skills
Interested applicants can call up 443-4321/ 443-4050 or 443-4070 for schedule of interview.
Email: **nfe_angeln@fashionexpress.com.hk**

BAHAGINAN

VSO Bahaginan is a Member of the VSO Federation, an international development organization that works through, and with volunteers. VSO Bahaginan also promotes and supports national volunteering and other volunteering development initiatives in the Philippines and in Asia and the Pacific.

EVERY DAY IS A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WILL THIS BE YOUR DAY? BE A VSO VOLUNTEER. BE THE DIFFERENCE.

VSO volunteers come from all walks of life, who make the decision to share two years of their lives to use whatever skills they've got to help communities in some of the poorest countries in the world. In return, they gain an extraordinary experience only few can boast of, a world of new perspectives, and valuable learnings about themselves, about life and about the global community of which we are a part.

VSO urgently needs volunteers mostly for placements in Africa.

FUNDRAISERS
- Must have income generation and proposal writing experience.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
- At least two years experience in classroom and clinical instruction.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
- Should have at least 5 years experience preferably community-based. Preferred experience in management or training role, especially in mental health or pediatrics

NURSE TEACHERS
- At least two years experience in classroom & clinical instruction and training

DOCTORS
- Should have at least 3 years post-registration experience. Experience in HIV and AIDS treatment and management is an advantage in some placements.
- With specializations in pediatrics, internal medicine, STI, OB-GYNE and surgery

IT TEACHERS
- Experienced IT trainers in databases, electronic MIS. At least 2 years formal training experience required.

SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS
- Experienced teachers of children and youth (3-22 years old) with special needs. Know-how in Waldorf School technology desirable.

PRIMARY TEACHERS
- Minimum two years experience in teacher training and curriculum development

MONITORING & EVALUATION SPECIALISTS
- Experienced in developing and installing M&E systems

GENDER ADVISERS
- Experienced in advocacy and gender mainstreaming of programmes and services

IRRIGATION ENGINEERS
- Graduate of Engineering with extensive experience in the planning, design and implementation of small-scale irrigation schemes

If your field of expertise is not included here, a **COMPLETE list of available volunteer jobs** can be found in the VSO Bahaginan website at **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph**

If you are a Filipino professional between 25 to 65 years old, with at least three years relevant experience in these fields and able to live and work within a local community for 2 years on a modest allowance, make this your day to volunteer with VSO. Download the VSO application form at **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph**. For further information and inquiries, email us at **bahaginan@vsoint.org** or call 3746450 to 52 loc 21 or write to us:

The Director
VSO BAHAGINAN
Unit 505 Pacific Corporate Center,
131 West Ave., Quezon City 1105

The Asia Foundation

PROGRAM OFFICER – LEGAL & HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT

The Asia Foundation is an international based non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia Pacific region. Programs in the Philippines have been strengthening good governance and citizen participation since 1954. The Asia Foundation's current programs in the Philippines promote government accountability and improve the public's access to the justice system.

The Asia Foundation is seeking to recruit a lawyer as Program Officer for its Legal Accountability & Dispute Resolution (LADR) Project. The position is based in Manila, Philippines. He or she will report directly to the Senior Program Officer. Compensation will be based on previous salary and experience.

Qualifications: Bar passer with minimum of 2 years work experience

Closing Date: October 25, 2006

Interested applicants are invited to send an email to **tafphil@asiafound.org** requesting a summary of the job responsibilities for the position.

The Asia Foundation
P.O. Box 7072
Domestic Airport Post Office
Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attn: Human Resource Officer
E-mail: **tafphil@asiafound.org**
Fax: 853-0474
Phone inquiries discouraged

Technology Solutions

/Immediate Opportunities
for 2005 & 2006 Graduates/

/Accenture Recruitment Center
Ground Floor, Libran House, Legaspi
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/16 October to 21 October 2006/

/8am to 6pm/

Accenture needs 2005 & 2006 graduates for immediate hiring. If you possess the skills to take on highly challenging projects, and the drive to develop deep specialized skills, then visit Accenture Recruitment Center. Take that first step towards building your career now with Accenture! Bring your resumé, transcript and 2x2 ID photos. For directions to the venue, text ACCENTURE<space>RECCNTR to 2327 for Globe and to 09178902327 for Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers.

careers.accenture.com/philippines

We are looking for JAVA Developers with the following qualifications

- Must have at least 3 years experience in Java
- Prefefred skills are JBOSS and Eclipse. Additional programming experience in XML, XSL, SOAP
- Must have participated in the entire lifecycle of projects and tasks. Including: requirements gathering, use cases, design, implementation and deployment
- Extensive Java programming experience in creation, development and maintenance of web based client server applications
- Experienced in database development (Oracle preferred, SQL Server a plus)
- Extensive knowledge of HTML and web UI design is a definite plus
- Solid programming techniques and unit testing required. Experience with Ant and AJAX is desired
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Interested applicants may submit their resume at the 15/F Export Bank Plaza Sen. Gil Puyat & Chino Roces Aves. Makati City, Metro Manila or email recruitment@headstrong.com

For further inquiries, you may call Recruitment at 886.1888 locals 6210, 6280, 6223

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- Health care
- Service industries

Uncompromising Expertise
- Business process outsourcing
- Strategic consulting
- Product + application development

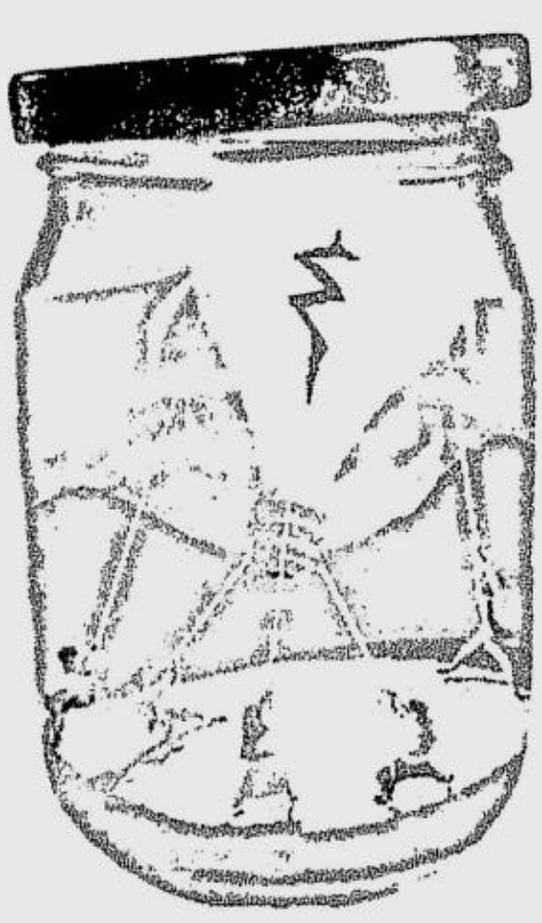
Distributed Consulting Model
- Business expertise
- Technology
- People

When can we talk?

Manila Global Delivery Center
15/F Export Bank Plaza
Sen. Gil Puyat & Chino Roces Aves.
Makati City, Metro Manila.

headstrong
A GLOBAL CONSULTANCY

Go ahead ...
Open the lid on BRIGHT IDEAS



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288 participants from 58 companies already did!

Here are some of their comments: "Excellent!" "I highly recommend the seminar to my peers." "Congratulations for a job well done!" "The training was very innovative and very applicable to our day to day solving our own corporate problems." "Self-empowering!" "It was really exciting; activities were really stimulating." "All employees, especially the big bosses, should attend this seminar."

Program Content: Definition of Creativity and its Link to Innovation and Continuous Improvement (Kaizen); The New Science of Creativity; Myths of Creativity; Mental Locks and Keys to Creativity; Strategies to Enhancing Creativity; Techniques Teams Can Use to Generate Creative Ideas; Keys to Generating Innovative Products, Services and Processes; Plus NEW materials and activities!
(Organizational Survey Assessing Creativity & Innovation Climate available in a separate package.)

UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

GENDER AND CULTURE ADVISER

for Southern Philippines Office (SPO)

Under the technical guidance of the UNFPA Programme Officer for Gender and the immediate supervision of the SPO Programme Manager, the Gender and Culture Adviser for SPO shall provide technical assistance to the UNFPA-assisted provinces, municipalities and NGO's in Mindanao in ensuring the cultural sensitivity of all interventions, gender mainstreaming and the prevention and management of violence against women in the context of Muslim and other indigenous cultures.

More specifically, the Gender and Culture Adviser for SPO shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Assist the Area Project Coordinators in ensuring that the IACAT/VAW Task Forces at the provincial and municipal levels are established and functional;
- Assist the IACAT/VAW Task Forces and the PPMU/MPMU in the conduct of the following:
  a) identification of the gender and VAW needs in the context of the Muslim and indigenous cultures of the provinces and municipalities;
  b) preparation of quality gender AWPs identifying the annual and quarterly deliverables and ensuring that activities and their underlying strategies meet these deliverables;
  c) conduct of culturally-sensitive gender advocacy among Muslim religious leaders, indigenous and tribal leaders, the Shariah courts, the local legislative bodies, media, etc. in strong collaboration and coordination with partners and the SPO PDS and Advocacy Adviser;
- Together with the APCs, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the gender AWPs and address technical and operational problems and bottlenecks;
- Coordinate and facilitate the timing and implementation of NCRFW, DSWD and 3RG gender and culture inputs to the provinces and municipalities and ensure that the provinces are ready to receive the assistance;
- Assists the UNFPA Programme Officer in the review, development and improvement of gender and VAW training modules, protocols, frameworks and monitoring tools;
- Serve as a resource person or trainor for gender sensitivity and other capacity building activities;
- Assist LGUs, NGOs and SPO in ensuring cultural sensitivity in designing programmes, mainstreaming a culturally-sensitive approach into all programming documents, particularly AWPs, IEC and training materials, and strategies across components of the 6th CP;
- Prepare and submit monthly performance reports to the Programme Manager on the technical assistance activities undertaken;
- Establish partnerships and expand networks of allies and advocates in gender;
- Perform other duties and responsibilities that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative or the SPO Programme Manager.

Core Competencies:
- Integrity and commitment to UNFPA's mandate / valuing diversity
- Performance management
- Fostering Innovation and Empowerment
- Working in teams at all levels
- Communicating information and ideas/Knowledge sharing
- Self-management/Emotional intelligence and Conflict management/Negotiating and resolving disagreements
- Appropriate and transparent decision making
- Analytical and Strategic Thinking/Results Orientation/Commitment to Excellence

Functional Competencies:
- Advocacy/Advancing a policy-oriented M and E agenda
- Results-based programme development and management
- Leveraging the resources of national governments & partners/building strategic alliances and partnerships
- Coordination, facilitation and negotiation skills
- Job knowledge/technical expertise

Qualifications and experience required:
- Masteral Degree in Gender, Women's Studies or any of the social sciences;
- Seven years of progressive experience in the area of gender and culture, and a minimum of two years working with Muslim communities and indigenous groups;
- Solid understanding of the cultural, social, economic and political context in Muslim Mindanao;
- Physically fit and willing to travel in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao;
- Willing to be based in Davao City.

Applicants are requested to send application letter indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in www.unfpa.org/about/employment/documents/p-11.doc to: The Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, 1229 Makati City, Philippines or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org.ph. All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Mr. Roberto P. Manongdo of UNFPA Manila by email: rmanongdo@unfpa.org.ph.

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

This is a project-funded post. Salary is negotiable based on qualifications.

Deadline for submission of applications: 31 October 2006

PETRA FOODS LIMITED

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We are one of the world's major manufacturers and suppliers of industrial cocoa ingredients and manufacturer & distributor of chocolate confectionery products (GOYA and Delfi). We are listed on the Main Board of Singapore Exchange (SGX). In line with our business expansion, we are inviting qualified candidates to join our subsidiaries, DELFI Foods, Inc. and DELFI Marketing, Inc. in the Philippines.

COSTING MANAGER

- CPA, with relevant hands-on work experience in Costing and Budgeting with minimum 3 years stint in Supervisory or Managerial Level
- Should be meticulous, analytical and possess excellent communication skills
- Good Knowledge of MS Excel
- Knowledge in Oracle financial is an advantage

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS

- CPA, with a least 1 year experience in audit from the big 4 firms
- Team player, and can work well under pressure
- Willing to work in extended hours
- Knowledge in Oracle financial is an advantage
- 25-35 years old

PRODUCT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

- College Graduate with a degree in Food Technology
- With least 3-5 years experience in food product and packaging development or improvement
- Experience in Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery R&D is an advantage
- Innovative, patient and meticulous in handling projects
- Team player
- Computer Literate
- Male/Female, 28-35 years old

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

- With relevant experience in Manufacturing Industry
- Knowledge in MS Office, MS Access and Oracle is an advantage
- Male/Female, 22 to 27 years old

Interested applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records to:

HRM DEPARTMENT
DELFI Foods, Inc.
23 M. Tuazon Street,
Parang Marikina City
Tel no: 941-3592
marieantonette.floresca@delfifoods.com

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering or other computer related course; Must have at least 6 months computer hardware experience; Call Center experience is an advantage

INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

CALL CENTER MANAGER
Bachelors and advanced degree or specialized training; 3-5 years previous Call Center experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified; Excellent verbal and written communication skills; Computer literate with proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel and MS Powerpoint; Competent in decision-making and problem solving; Knowledge of marketing strategies, processes, and available resources; Program planning and implementation skills

ACCOUNT MANAGER (Technical Account)
Two (2)years working experience in a Call Center Operations Environment or Project Management Team; Three (3) years technical background; Good Microsoft Office Skills; Experience in group dynamics and organization; Excellent Written & Verbal Communication Skills; Ability to multi-task - can implement simultaneous projects in a timely manner and successfully meet program objectives; Strong process flow management skills; Strong negotiation and problem solving skills, attention to detail; Bachelors or advanced degree

DATABASE PROGRAMMER
One-year related work experience; Graduates of B.S./M.S. Comp Sci; Knowledgeable: My SQL, Linux, Apache languages, Visual Basic, Crystal Reports, Scripting languages, Microsoft SQL Server; Experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

ACCOUNTING STAFF
Graduate of four-year accounting course and other related field; New graduates are welcome to apply; Computer literate specifically good in MS Excel; Willing to extend long hours during payroll deadlines; Willing to report to work on holidays; Willing to work on graveyard shift; Flexible and fast learner

All positions require excellent verbal & written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office & Internet Explorer
Interested applicants may bring the following requirements:
Updated resume / 2 pcs of 2x2 picture / 6 pcs of 1x1 picture / Valid SSS Number / Valid Tax Identification Number (TIN) / NBI Clearance required before employment

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Level 3 MS303, EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City
Monday-Friday 8AM-8PM / Saturday 8AM-3PM
Hotline: (02) 637-7111 / local 301 & 302
manilarecruitment@teleperformance.com
www.teleperformance.ph

RECRUITMENT CENTER
Luxur Hotel (former Bacolod Convention Plaza & Hotel)
Magsaysay Ave, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
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bacolodrecruitment@teleperformance.com

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

JOB DESCRIPTION
- Business research & development
- Development and implementation of various marketing tools
- Development and implementation of marketing plans
- Preparation of business correspondence and proposals
- Update and maintenance of client database
- Explore market opportunities and improve client relations and business networks

JOB QUALIFICATIONS
- Female / Male, 22–28 years old
- College degree
- Experience in sales, marketing, customer relations, or research
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office
- Team player, can perform multi tasks, willing to work long hours
- Strong moral & ethical character
- Can work in a multicultural environment
- Can work efficiently under pressure and time restriction

ASSET PROTECTION ASSOCIATES

JOB DESCRIPTION
- Development of asset protection programs and explore business opportunities with potential business partners
- To work with clients in determining corporate security and asset protection requirements
- Design, Development & Monitoring of security program for corporate clients
- Assessment of contract security personnel; Recommend necessary security measures & infrastructure
- Conduct site security inspections, investigations & reviews
- Provide training, briefings & monitor requirements & progress of security related endeavors
- To work hand in hand with the management in Security Advising and Management

JOB QUALIFICATIONS
- Female / Male, 25–32 years old
- College degree
- Knowledge & experience in research & writing, security & risk analysis, security management, security planning & development, security manpower training
- Familiar with business processes & organizational development as well as electronic security enhancements
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Office
- Team player, can perform multi tasks, willing to work long hours
- Strong moral & ethical character
- Can work in a multicultural environment
- Can work efficiently under pressure and time restriction

(F)8440431 (E) info@businessprofiles.com.ph (W)www.businessprofiles.com.ph

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WANTED
1. INDUSTRIAL ENG'G. – Pref w/ 2 yrs exp. Female 25-35 yrs old. Must be familiar with bill of materials and operations breakdown. With knowledge in costing. Highly organized, analytical, efficient & effective.
2. QC HEAD – 25-35 yrs old. Familiar with manufacturing set-up and AQL. Can implement quality system & with good supervisory skills.
Send resumé at 834 Felipe Pike St. Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
671-1649 / 671-1655

A manufacturing firm is looking for skilled and qualified personnel to handle the following job below:

- **Executive Secretary**
- **Mechanical Engineer**
- **Human Resources Manager**
- **Accountant**
- **Account Executive**
- **Merchandising Supervisor**
- **Quality Controller**
- **Warehouse Manager**
- **Marketing / Sales Dept.**
- **Plant Manager**

Please send your resumé with picture to this address:
P.O. Box 8098
1222 Makati City

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Alltech is a leading multinational supplier of natural feed additives to the animal feed industry. With international sales growing at over 20% per year and increasing acceptance of natural, scientifically-proven solutions to the global feeding issues, the company continues to experience success.

Alltech was incorporated in the Philippines in October 1998. Expanding rapidly, Alltech Philippines recently opened a regional office in Davao City, and is continuously expanding its team in the National Capital Region.

As part of this expansion, Alltech is currently seeking for

OFFICE ACCOUNTANT

The successful candidate will be responsible for preparation of regular financial reports, sales reports and sales forecasts. He/She will be required to maintain the accounting system (MACOLA) and processing of daily accounting transactions. The Office Accountant will prepare regular tax returns and other government filings. He/She will facilitate annual audits of external auditors and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Included in the responsibilities is to prepare and disburse monthly payrolls of all employees.

We are seeking for someone who is enthusiastic, self-motivated and looking a challenging and rewarding position in a dynamic, multinational organization.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE MUST BE:
- A Certified Public Accountant
- Proficiency in Microsoft® Windows® programs (PowerPoint, Excel, and Word)
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Willing to work long hours
- Willing to work in Alabang, Muntinlupa area
- Adaptable to multi-task management approach

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Email: nyavanangkul@alltech.com or
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We will only respond to qualified candidates.

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- ☑ *Do You Want to Learn More About US Jurisprudence?*
- ☑ *Do You Want MORE from Life but still Want the Law in Your Life?*

If you answered "YES!" to any of these questions then we have the right job for you!

We are one of the world's largest dedicated providers of digital content services and solutions. We deliver content manufacturing, content conversion, systems engineering, and education in XML and related standards to leading companies in fields as diverse as publishing, telecommunications, healthcare and defense.

We are looking for highly capable people for the following positions:

LEGAL EDITORS

Qualifications:

- a member of the Philippine bar;
- at least 2 years in the practice of law;
- superior analytical and legal research skills;
- a quick, critical mind that can accurately identify legal issues; and
- willing to learn new things, undertake new challenges and think out of the box.

LEGAL ANALYSTS

Qualifications:

- a law school graduate or a law student at least in 3rd year;
- superior analytical and legal research skills;
- a quick, critical mind that can accurately identify legal issues; and
- willing to learn new things, undertake new challenges and think out of the box.

If you fit the above qualifications, bring or send your resume to:

ESS Manufacturing Company, Inc.
41st Floor PBCom Tower Ayala Ave. Cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@emci-phil.com
manila_recruitment@yahoo.com
Tel. nos.: 815-0000/815-8252/757-4757
Fax no.: 815-0000 ext. 704

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Be a PART of the COUNTRY'S licensed bottler manufacturer and distributor of U.S. BEST TASTING SOFTDRINK since 1905!

Aslawide Refreshments Corporation (ARC), the country's licensed bottler manufacturer and distributor of U.S. Best Tasting Softdrink, known as RC Cola, since 1905, is opening its corporate doors to young and dynamic individuals for our Metro Manila, Antipolo, Southern and Northern Luzon plant to respond to the demands of an ever increasingly competitive environment in the bottling industry.

CUSTOMER WELFARE OFFICER
- Graduate of any 4-year courses from a reputable school
- At least two (2) years Customer Service experience preferably in Manufacturing or Food Industry
- Knowledge in BFAD processing an advantage
- Has good oral and written skills
- Flexible and can effectively handle all sorts of people

PRODUCT TESTER
- Graduate of Chemical Engineering, B.S. Chemical or any related courses from a reputable school
- Preferably has at least six (6) months background in Quality Assurance
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon

PRODUCT MANAGER
- Graduate of Marketing or any related courses from a reputable school
- Must have three (3) years Marketing experience specializing in Product / Board Management or its equivalent (1 year of which is supervisory or officer level)
- Must know how to drive and has a driver's license with restriction code 2 & 3
- Can effectively speak and write in Filipino and English
- Flexible and able to deal with all sorts of people
- Team player and high producer

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy from a reputable school
- CPA an advantage but not required
- With at least three (3) years experience specializing in Accounting (1 year of which is supervisory level)
- Can comfortably speak and write in Filipino and English
- Knowledgeable in the use of MS Office applications

CADET ENGINEER
- Graduate of any Engineering courses like Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial, Chemical or B.S. Chemical for QA position
- Related work is an advantage but not required
- Can comfortably communicate in Filipino and English
- Must know how to drive with professional driver's license preferably restriction code 2 & 3
- Willing to travel any where in Luzon

SALESMAN
- At least two-year course graduate from a reputable school
- Must possess high interest in the field of sales
- Experience as a Route Salesman an advantage
- Willing to travel and to work anywhere in Luzon
- Must know how to drive and with professional driver's license preferably restriction codes 2 & 3
- Able to effectively with all sorts of people

Interested applicants may submit their resumés together with their Transcript of Records and 2x2 photo to:

THE RECRUITMENT OFFICER

For Metro Manila, Northern & Southern Areas:
HR Corporate Office
Rm. 312 Solmac Bldg., Banaue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 732-4185
hr_arc@yahoo.com

For Metro East Area:
HR Antipolo Plant
Km. 27 Sitio Puting Bato, Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City
Tel. No. 682-2487

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HOUSEMAID - must have exp. as housekeeper in hotel or hospital, must speak and understand English
NURSING AID (Female) - must have exp. in hospital & preferably with Nursing Certificate, Age, not less than 30-32 years old
HOUSING SUPERVISOR - 10 years exp. in International Western European or Middle East Housing or Hospitality. Fluent in English written & Speaking Essential, shall possess tactfulness & good judgment in process in fulfilling duties.
MATERIAL EXPEDITER - High School Graduate. 5 years in retail/wholesale business, including two years with ordering/ stocking duties. 2 years in Technical College in Computer Operations. Will be required to enter & read data from microcomputer
FEMALE PHOTOGRAPHER - good exp. in digital photography. Courteous & cooperative. Good looking and represented.
FEMALE GRAPHIC DESIGNER - good exp. in Photoshop Adobe Premier & Photo Editing. Have knowledge in photography
ENVIRONMENT AIR DISPERSION MODELING SPECIALIST - BS in Environmental Science. Must have at least 5 yrs experience.
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM Master's Degree in Com. App. or Eng'g Degree in any discipline. 5 years exp.
MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL / CIVIL ENGINEERS - Licensed, with good knowledge in Auto Cad and preferably with experience
CHEMICAL ENGINEER / MATERIALS ENGINEER Licensed, must have knowledge in soil & Asphalt Chemistry & in Auto CAD.
DRAFTSMAN / AUTOCAD OPERATOR Must have at least two years experience and very good knowledge in AutoCAD
CHILLED WATER / HVAC TECH. - must possess refrigeration & air Condition Trade Certificate. Exp. in conventional Controls & PLC's repair & maintenance Preferably have basic knowledge in Computer
DOCTOR CLINICAL DIETICIAN - Master's degree in Dietetic or Clinical or PHD Nutrition & Dietician. Have 2 years exp. in hospital.
CLINICAL DIETICIAN Master's Degree in Dietetic or Clinical or Nutrition & Registration Dietician. Have 2 yrs. exp. in hospital
PERFORMANCE ANALYST - Financial Degree; Familiar with Microsoft Office Programs. Must have at least 4 yrs experience
MULTICRAFTSMAN - must have knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, electrical & A/C works. Must speak & understand English
GRADER OPERATOR - Must have at least 3 years exp. in road & highway contraction and must have knowledge in final grading
AUTO ELECTRICIAN - Must have a good knowledge in Heavy Equipment, Electronics, and Computerized System Configuration.
CRANE OPERATOR - Must have at least 3 years experience
STOREKEEPER - With at least 1 year experience in store keeping. At least College level, with good knowledge in Computer Application software such as Access, Excel, Word and others.
CHEMIST - BS in Chemistry. Efficient & accurate in analytical services to customers. Analytical productivity. Conducting special studies.

ALL CANDIDATES MUST HAVE AT LEAST 3-5 YRS EXPERIENCE. APPLY PERSONALLY & BRING THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS & PASSPORT
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED. FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY.

A well established German Manufacturing Company for high quality European Men's Trousers located in Bataan, Mariveles, URGENTLY requires:

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

Qualifications:
- BSIE graduate
- At least 2 years experience
- Good in oral & written communication
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Interested parties please send full resumé by email to:
ec_ccmc@ccmc.bayandsl.ph

Nulatex Philippines is now hiring and looking for the most energetic, responsible and experienced candidate for a high-paying job with long term benefits and a promising career.

Field of experience:
Distribution, Wholesalers, Retailers, Sales & Marketing, Promotion/PR

1. Operations Manager
- With great leadership qualities/ Male or Female / between 28 – 40 years old.
- College graduate preferably with a degree in Business Development, Marketing, Business Administration, Advertising.
- Experience no less than 3 years in the field of marketing, distribution (wholesale & retail) of cosmetics, medical supplies and health products
- Energetic, motivated with pleasing personality.
- Ability to work under company pressure and handle difficult situation.

Responsibilities:
- Create or open new marketing leads for the company
- Manage and lead the sales and marketing team.
- Establish a good relationship with all retailers and distributors.
- Look for new nationwide distributors.
- Plan, strategize and execute all the marketing and promotion plans of the company.
- Meet the company's expectations in terms of achieving target market, goals and monthly & yearly sales quota.
- Submit all the kind of reports from Sales – marketing – collections – new clients – events .etc.
- Good computer skills with high working knowledge of Excel, Word, Photoshop, Power point.
- Create company profile and sales presentations for prospective clients.

2. Sales and Marketing personnel
- With a PR background Female / between 24 – 36 years old
- College graduate preferably with a degree in Business Development, Marketing, Business Administration, Advertising.
- Experience no less than 3 years in the field of marketing, distribution (wholesale & retail) of cosmetics, medical supplies and health products
- Energetic, motivated with pleasing personality
- Ability to work under company pressure and handle difficult situations

Responsibilities :
- Create or open new marketing leads for the company
- Establish a good relationship with all retailers and distributors.
- Look for new nationwide distributors
- Plan, strategize and execute all the marketing and promotion plans of the company.
- Meet the company's expectations in terms of achieving target market, goals and monthly & yearly sales quota.
- Submit all the kind of reports from Sales – marketing – collections – new clients – events .etc.
- Good computer skills with high working knowledge of Excel, Word, Power point.
- Create company profile and sales presentations for prospective clients

Please be advised that only those who meet the requirements will be taken into consideration for possible interviews. Submit thru email your comprehensive resume with recent photo taken in formal attire. Kindly include a list of all related works and achievements done through the years. Address your Email to:

Ricky@firstactiv8.com or to Rdaker@pldtdsl.net with subject (Nulatex)

Important: Please be advised that once you are qualified for an interview you will be contacted through your cell phone or landline and you will be given only one chance to make it to the interview. There will be no rescheduling of interview.

Deadline of submission of resumé is November 10, 2006.

THE DBP SERVICE CORPORATION

is inviting you to become part of our growing number of highly qualified and competitive personnel. We have urgent needs for the following positions:

EXECUTIVE / SPECIAL ASSISTANT – Above average oral and written communication skills, female, personable, with extensive knowledge and experience in psychological evaluation and Human Resource practice, not more than 35 years old;

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER / ANALYST – Male/ Female, graduate of Computer Science, with working skills in network maintenace, extensive experience of accounting, business systems, or knowledgeable in visual basic/SQL and not more than 35 years old;

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS – Licensed CPA or with Civil Service Eligibility, Male or Female, well rounded in all aspects of the accounting cycle, not more than 30 years old;

ENGINEERS - Male/Female, LICENSED Civil, ECE, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineers, skill in AUTOCAD an advantage, not more than 35 years old;

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS – Male or female, Graduate of any business course or computer related, not more than 35 years old, proficient in English

DATA ENCODERS – Male/Female, graduate of any IT or business course, not more than 30 years old with civil service eligibility;

Applicants who are currently employed need not apply. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply personally with credentials and recent ID picture to:

DBP SERVICE CORPORATION
2ND FLR. EXECUTIVE BLDG. CENTER
SEN. GIL PUYAT AVE. COR. MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
Tel. Nos. 895-14-95 / 895-14-85

AV Integration

AV Integration Technology Products is in need of a Sales Associate to help in the company's thrust in audio-video equipment distribution.

Responsibilities:
- To provide management of strategies aimed to strengthen the sales output in audio-video, computer, and multi-media equipment.
- Establishing and maintaining good relationship with clients.
- Carry out sales plans according to direction of company.
- Proactively execute action plans of sales team.

Requirements:
- Graduate of any 4-year course (engineering background an advantage).
- Pleasing personality.
- At least 3 years working experience in same industry.
- Preferably 25-32 years old.

Interested applicants may submit their resume during weekdays at the AV Integration office, 6th Flr. F&M Lopez Bldg., 109 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. For inquiries, please call 8939204 or 8400197.

SANYO

Cash Register / POS
CCTV Security Systems

ACCOUNTING STAFF
Female, 23 - 30 years old. BS Accountancy graduate. With at least 2 years experience in General Accounting. Able to withstand internal and external environment pressure. Attentive to details and computer proficient. Creative, innovative and can associate well with people. Excellent communication skills, both written and oral. Honest and hardworking. Computer literate.

APPLY IN PERSON with TOR, Resume & 2X2 color picture in:
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ROVING SUPERVISORS

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PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT:
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GRACE PARK, CALOOCAN CITY
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FF-FL, Inc.
Accounting Clerk

Male/Female, BS Accounting Graduate, 21-27 years of age, computer literate, & with at least 1 year experience in bookkeeping
Send resumé to (02) 840-5352 (telefax);
email **olive@csasia.net**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A New Company specializing in Media and Advertising

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT (1)

- With at least 2 yrs experience in related field
- Knowledgeable in all facet of accounting
- Preferably a certified public accountant
- Male/Female, not more than 30 yrs old

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (4)

- Male, 2-3 yrs experience in related field
- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course
- Good communication/negotiation skills

DISTRIBUTOR / MONITORING SUPERVISOR (1)

- Graduate of any 4 yr course
- With at least 1-2 yrs supervisory experience
- Methodical, hardworking, meticulous with work
- Can work on weekends
- Knowledgeable in Video Equipments
- Male, not more than 28 yrs. old, computer literate

PURCHASER (1)

- Graduate of Engineering or related course
- With at least 1-2 yrs experience in related field
- Proactive, analytical, computer literate, good negotiation skills and hardworking
- Male/Female, not more than 28 yrs old

Submit your resumé w/ 2x2 photo, Transcript of Record, Employment Certificates & NBI Clearance

Unit 174 – 17/F Columbia Tower
Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Email: recruitment_sil@yahoo.com.ph
Pls. look for Ms. Cora Fermin

IMMEDIATE HIRING

A reputable **construction firm** is in immediate need to fill up the following vacancies;

1. FOREMAN
2. SKILLED WORKERS (MASON)
3. DUMP TRUCK DRIVER
4. HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
5. AUTO-ELECTRICIAN
6. BUILDING ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications:

- Male
- Experienced in construction works
- Hardworking and reliable
- Trustworthy
- Can follow instructions
- Can work with minimum supervision

Interested qualified applicants may apply personally at:

EFC ENTERPRISES
1864 P. Domingo Cor. Pagkakaisa Sts., Brgy. Kasilawan, Makati City 1206
Tel. Nos. 899-3427 to 28 and 897-9320
Email Address:
efcenterprises@yahoo.com

urgent vacancies!

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Employer's interview date will be on Oct. 19,2006

FACILITIES SUPERVISOR / PLUMBER
ELECTRICIAN / AC TECHNICIAN
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ELECTRICIAN / CARPENTER

OTHER POSITIONS FOR MANPOWER POOLING:
HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR / SENIOR EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPING

Qualifications: at least 3-5 yrs exp. working in building maintenance. For supervisory positions exp. Must be 5 yrs & up in the same field. Good comm. skills is a must. Age not more than 45 yrs old.

SMITH BELL MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.
POEA-017-LB-062504-UL
2294 Smith Bell Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 1231 Phone 8178039 / 8167851 to 58 loc. 240
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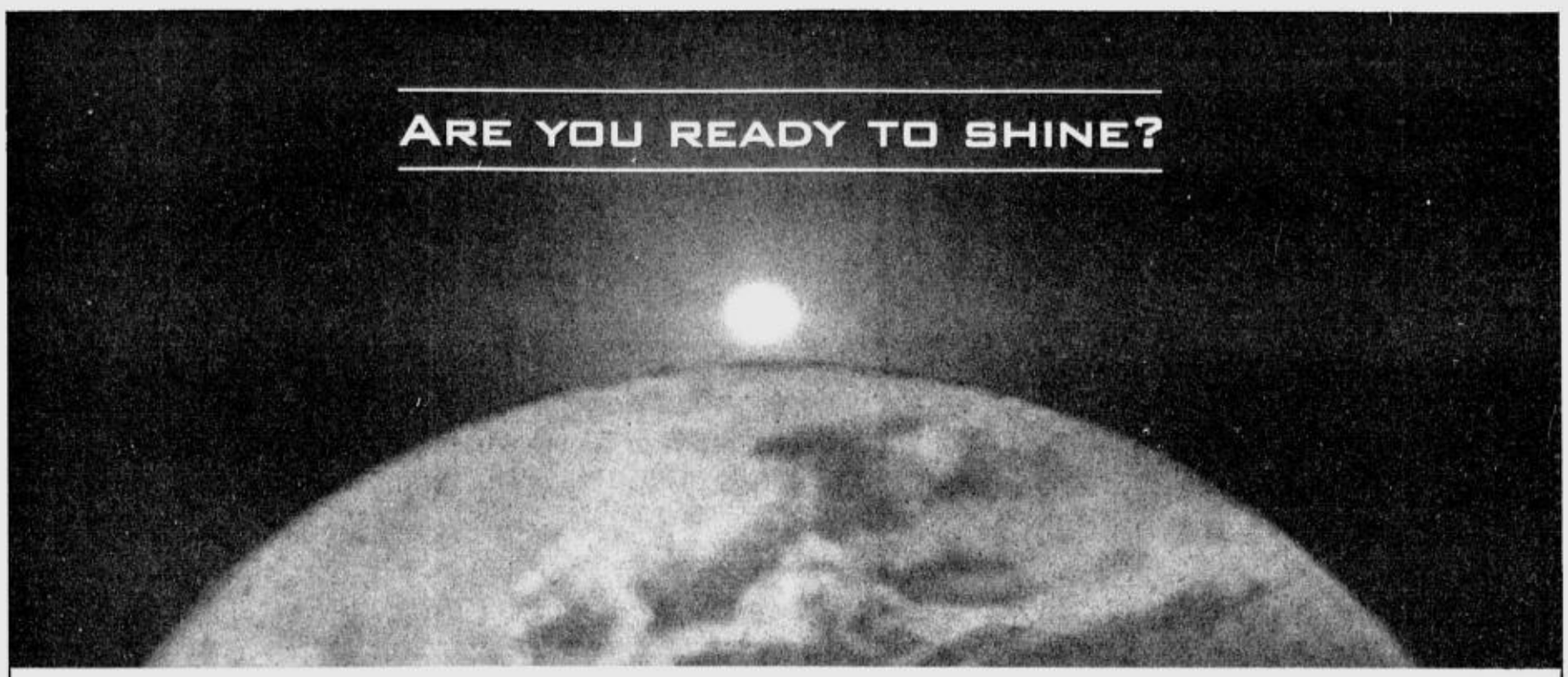

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- With strong leadership, communication, team-building skills.

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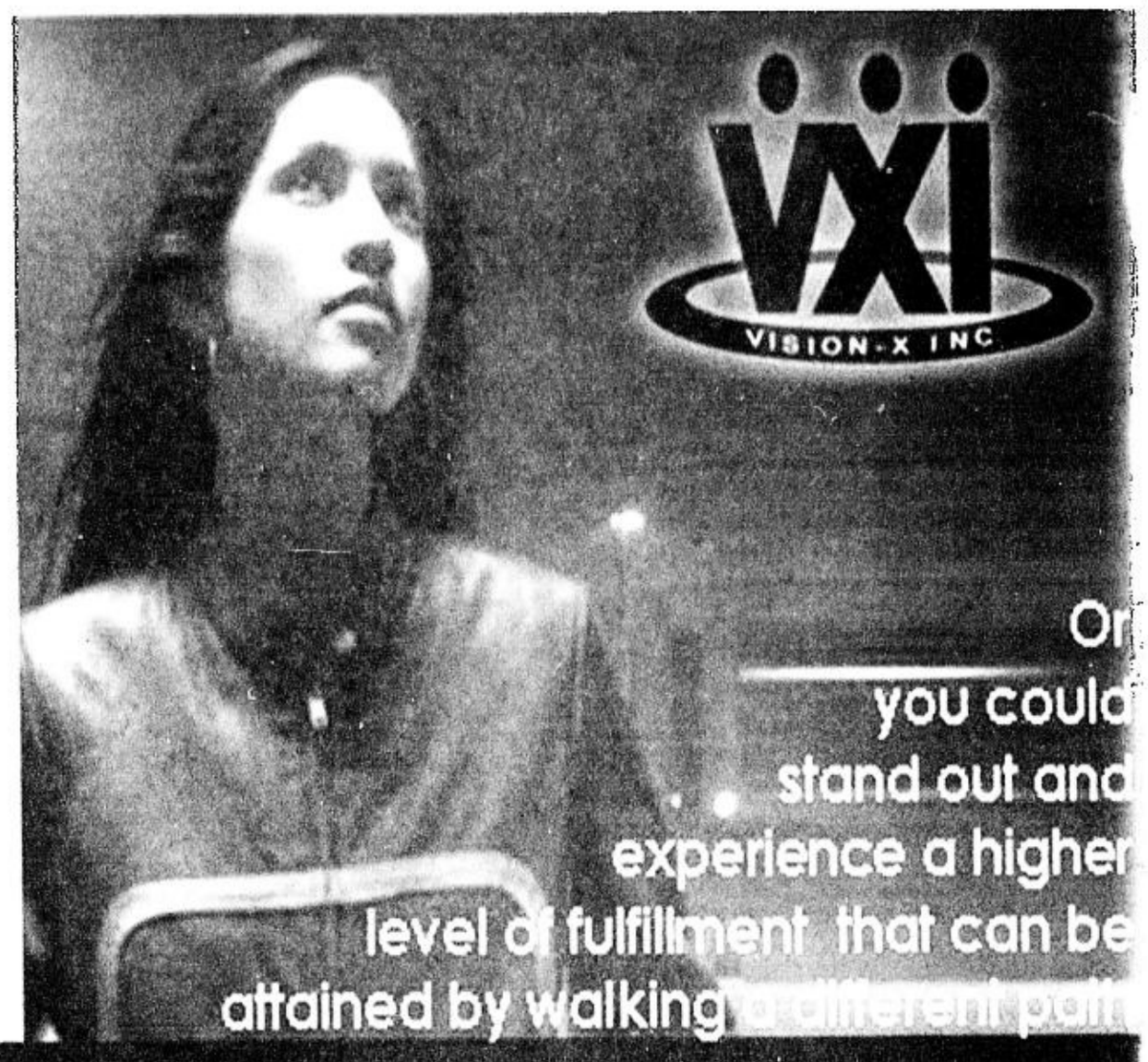

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'Work to live, not live to work'--Casiño

This is the keynote address of Rep. Teddy Casiño (Bayan Muna) delivered during the opening ceremonies of the STI Global Career Connections 2006, at SM Mega Mall, Megatrade Hall, on September 20, 2006

First of all, I would like to commend STI for organizing this job fair. Once again, STI has gone one step further for their students not only by providing them with skills and knowledge to become a better person but also by helping them find employment. And the fact that they are doing this not only for their own students but students from other schools as well shows their genuine concern for our people.

Today you are seeking work from potential employers. But it takes two to tango. They are also seeking people who will be making money for them. So the question is, who really needs who? Remember that without you and others like you, these companies can never make the money they're making now. So when you apply for a job, don't treat yourself as a beggar asking for alms from your future employer. Kaunting dangal naman sa sarili. After all, they probably need you as much as you need them.

What is work? Is it simply being employed in a company or a workplace?

Work is more than employment. It is what one does for a living. An old woman manning a *karinderya* in Makati once asked an executive-looking young man what his work was. He answered, "*D'yan ho ako sa isang* top 500 multinational company, *isa ho akong* electronic customer service processing agent."

"*Ahh...*" the old woman said, "*eh, ano nga ang ginagawa mo?*"

"Well," the young man replied, "I am in charge of receiving and processing audio electronic communications from corporate clients for proper advice and/or referral to the appropriate departments, customer agents or authority who may provide the client with relevant information and/or quality solutions in real time."

The old woman was taken aback and had to ask the young man to repeat his answer slowly.

"*Ahh... alam ko na,*" the old woman finally said, "*tagasagot ka ng telepono.*"

Employment is only a formal manifestation of work. In the Philippines, only 51% of employed workers are salary and wage earners. The rest are unpaid family workers or self-employed. *Kaya marami ho sa atin, may trabaho pero walang sweldo. Kayod ng kayod pero wala namang kinikita. Kabaligtaran naman po sa gobyerno – maraming sahod ng sahod hindi naman nagtatrabaho. At ang mas masahol, nakaw na lang ng nakaw.*

We should not treat work as an end in itself. We should work to live, not live to work.

What do I mean? Work, in its most profound meaning, is a means to fulfill our humanity. It is one integral factor in making us human beings. A person who does nothing is a dead person. A person who simply eats and drinks is no different from a pet. On the other hand, a person who does nothing but work, *yung CR lang ang pahinga*, is no different from a slave or a machine.

My point is, work should not make us slaves but free men and women. Work should not degrade us but uplift us. This is important because most often, the sole measure of one's work is one's income or the company's profit margin. *Madalas, kinakalimutan na ang values, kung ano ang tama o mali, kung ano ang makataong pagtrato o pambubusabos, dahil puro kita ang nasa isip natin. Minsan nga, kinukulong ang mga manggagawa, pinipilit mag overtime ng walang bayad, para lang kumita ang kumpanya. Pero aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo, sabi nga ng matatanda?*"

Ang trabaho ay karapatan ng bawat isa sa atin bilang bahagi ng ating karapatang mabuhay. At bilang tao, karapatan nating mabuhay ng marangal, malusog, mapayapa at maligaya. Kayat tayo ay nagtatrabaho hindi lang para kumita, kundi para mabuhay ng marangal, malusog, mapayapa at maligaya.

People have a right not only to work but more importantly, to enjoy the fruits of their labor. This is what the Constitution, the highest law of the land, mandates.

In order to provide enough decent work and employment, there should be a comprehensive development of a sustainable, self-reliant and robust Filipino economy. The Philippine should not only be a country of landless farmers and jobless workers – in other words, a source of cheap, quality, English speaking workers. It should be, in itself, a country that can feed itself and provide products and services for its own people.

This is where, I think, government and to a certain extent the private sector has failed. Our economic policies are flawed and have resulted in massive poverty, unemployment and national maldevelopment. For five decades, we have been a dumping ground for excess goods and capital and a source of cheap labor for the industrialized countries like the US, Japan and the European Union.

For the last three decades, we have been exporting our own people. While I have nothing against OFWs, it pains me that all we see are their remitances. Just think, if they bring in $12 to $15 billion a year in salaries, imagine how much money they make for their foreign emplyers. Probably three, four, five times that amount. Now imagine if they were working here, making money for their own country. We'd be rich.

It is for these reasons that Bayan Muna has always strived to push for measures and policies, in and outside Congress, that will generate the kind of employment that not only respects the people's right to work, but ensures a sustainable, self-reliant and robust Filipino economy.

In particular, we have been pushing for the P125 wage hike bill, changes in the labor code vs. anti-contractualization and for gender-sensitive work environment. We have advocated for the protection and promotion of Filipino companies, especially SMEs that provide the most work in the face of globalization. For the long-term, we have been pushing for a genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization policy that is the bedrock of a strong, sustainable and self-reliant economy.

I hope that as you find employment, your idealism remains and together, we can work for that dream for a better, brighter Philippines. Thank you.

** Speech revised as contributed article for Philippine Daily Inquirer*

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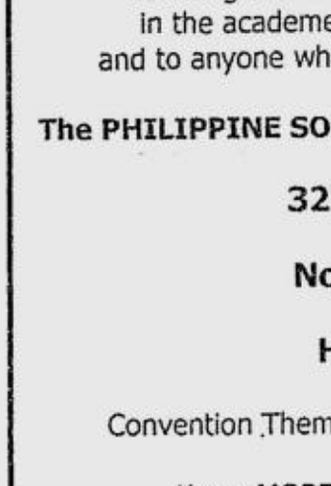

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PMAP @ 50: Crossing HR pathways

THE CHAPTERS COMmittee of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) invites everyone to the 1st Luzon HR Summit to be held at El Centro-Legenda Hotel, Subic Bay on Nov. 17-18, 2006.

UP President Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, DBA as the Keynote Speaker will talk on The Strategic Role of HR in Nation-Building.

Top HR speakers will share on The Changing Role of HR, Rewarding during Difficult Times, HR: Adding Value to Organization, Managing Conflict through Alternative Dispute Settlement, Training under Shoe-string Budget, CSR: Enhancing Business Results and Best HR Practices with Bottom-Line Results. Confirmed speakers are Ernesto G. Espinosa, FPM, President of Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Managers and PMAP Past President; Noel de Leon, President & CEO of Mercer HR & Consulting, Inc.; Godofredo B. San Juan, Jr., VP for HR & Organization Development of Atlanta Industries, Inc.; Ramon S. Medina, FPM, PMAP Past President' John Victor Tence, VP-Corporate Human Resource of Jollibee Food Corporation; Jorge V. Sibal, Dean, UP SOLAIR, Diliman, Hon. Josie dela Cruz, Governor, Bulacan Province; Mark O. Go., HR Director, Cypress Semiconductor Philippines, Inc. and Gerry A. Plana, PMAP Excecutive Director.

For inquiries and registration, please contact PMAP Professional Staff at Tel. Nos. 726-1581/88/32 or email Toto Roldan (toto.roldan@pmap.org.ph).

Employment improves in July 2006

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYment (DOLE) reported a brighter employment picture for the country as total employment nationwide in July 2006 grew by 2.3 percent, from 32.522 million in the same period last year to 33.257 million

Acting Labor and Employment Secretary Danilo P. Cruz said that based on the July 2006 round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office, this indicates, in absolute terms, that a total of 735,000 in new employment were generated during the period.

Cruz said that the country's services sector maintained its top position as the biggest employment generator of the economy in July 2006, with wholesale and retail trade contributing 45.3 percent (+333,000) to total employment creation, followed by private households with employed persons (34.7 percent or +255,000).

Cruz said that further employment gains were registered in other community, social and personal services (+110,000), real estate, renting and business activities (+91,000), and public administration and defense, compulsory social security (+55,000).

The Acting Labor Chief said that quality of employment also substantially improved in July 2006, as reflected by a 3.6 percent (+719,000) rise in full-time employment, complemented by a 7.5 percent increase (+1.220 million) in wage and salary employment.

In absolute terms, Cruz said that "the number of workers nationwide with full time jobs rose from 20.24 million in July 2005, to 20.959 million in July 2006." On the other hand, he also noted significant reductions in the following categories: unpaid family workers (-266,000), own account workers (-219,000), as well as part time workers (-21,000).

Cruz added that nationwide, "employment grew in all but two of the country's 17 regions, with the biggest growth recorded in the National Capital Region at 22.4 percent (+165,000), followed closely by Region 6 (Western Visayas) at 21.2 percent (+156,000)."

He said that other regions posted growth in new employment including Region 4-A (CALABARZON) at 17.4 percent (+128,000); Region 11 (Davao) at 10.7 percent (+79,000); and Region 7 (Central Visayas) at 10.6 percent (+78,000).

Amidst the nationwide growth in new employment, Cruz also noted the 2.6 percent expansion in the labor force, or nearly one million (+928,000) as of July 2006. "Although largely absorbed by the 735,000 growth posted in new employment, unemployment still rose by a negligible 0.3 percentage point to 8.0 percent," he said.

Cruz, nonetheless, expressed confidence that the slight setback will be easily overcome as the employment outlook for the rest of 2006 continues to be vibrant. The Acting Labor Chief said that more employment are expected to be generated due to the following factors: 1) the projected higher agricultural output due to improved weather conditions; 2) prevailing strong demand for services sector workers from the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry; 3) higher export receipts; and, 4) the falling petroleum prices that may result in the recovery of the manufacturing sector.

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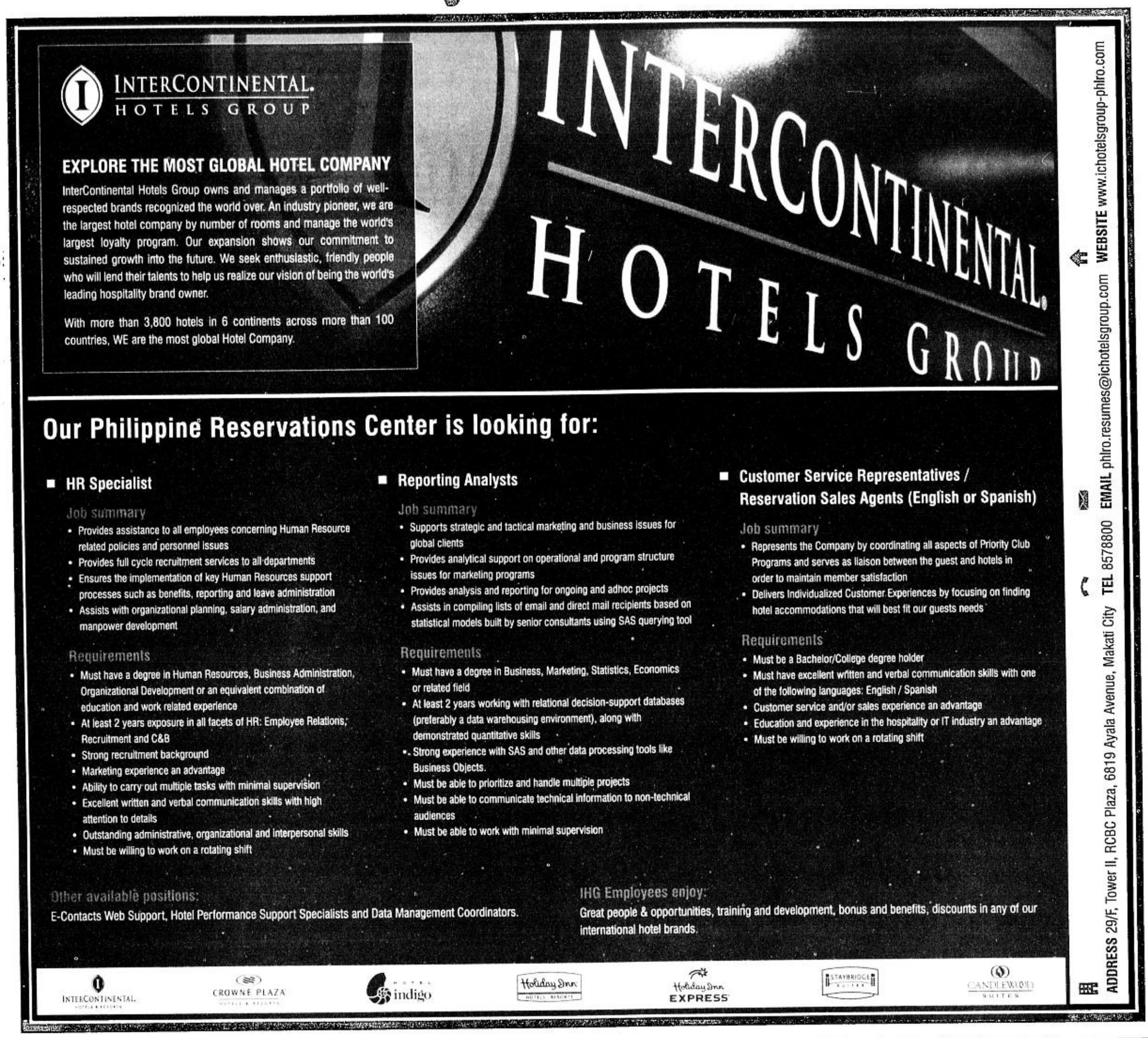

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- Assists with organizational planning, salary administration, and manpower development

Requirements
- Must have a degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, Organizational Development or an equivalent combination of education and work related experience
- At least 2 years exposure in all facets of HR: Employee Relations, Recruitment and C&B
- Strong recruitment background
- Marketing experience an advantage
- Ability to carry out multiple tasks with minimal supervision
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with high attention to details
- Outstanding administrative, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

■ Reporting Analysts

Job summary
- Supports strategic and tactical marketing and business issues for global clients
- Provides analytical support on operational and program structure issues for marketing programs
- Provides analysis and reporting for ongoing and adhoc projects
- Assists in compiling lists of email and direct mail recipients based on statistical models built by senior consultants using SAS querying tool

Requirements
- Must have a degree in Business, Marketing, Statistics, Economics or related field
- At least 2 years working with relational decision-support databases (preferably a data warehousing environment), along with demonstrated quantitative skills
- Strong experience with SAS and other data processing tools like Business Objects.
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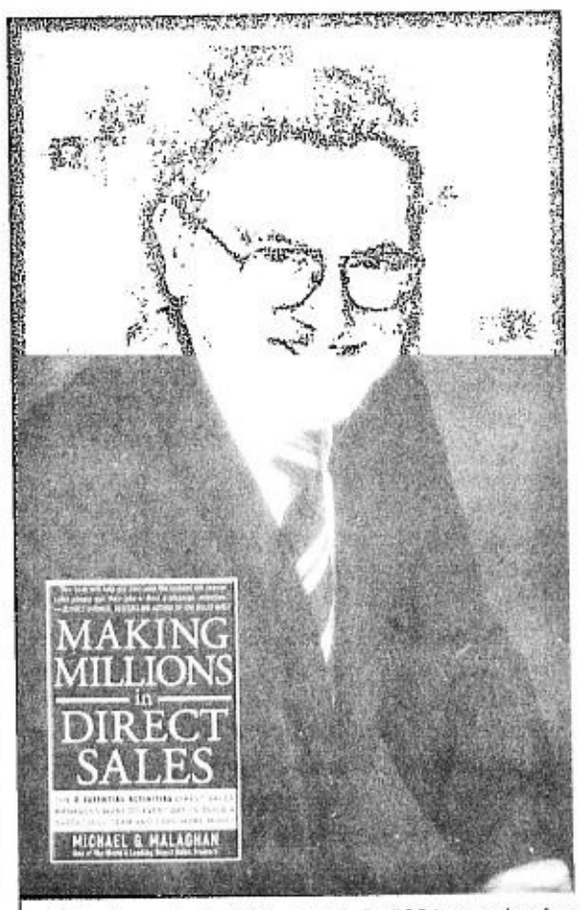

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Michael G. Malaghan

A legend in the field of sales
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Malaghan started his career in 1961 as a book salesman. He finished his career 41 years later as president of International Horizons (Licensee of The Walt Disney Company) leading five direct-sales organizations spread across Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. In 1992, he started an incredible streak of increased sales every year for 11 consecutive years. After being promoted to president, he raised sales in Japan from $50M to $110M in 3 years as part of the quarter billion dollar empire he retired from only a few years ago. In the process, he created millionaires from the ranks of his sales managers.

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Nov. 17 (Fri) - The Great Lessons I Learned From Ten Leaders Whom I Reported To Or Who Reported To Me.

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Closing the deal: Negotiating your salary

Before you sign a contract, know how much you want

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

YOUR MUCH-AWAITED MOment has come. You have been invited to another visit to the company you are considering, for what seems like the final negotiation of your salary. You don't know what to expect and you are giddy with excitement.

Following are some tips on closing the deal:

Scan the market. There is no way you can get a good deal if you don't do your homework. Ask around and try to find out the market rates for the job level you are being considered for. International and local magazines sometimes provide industry salary information. Your friends who work in the same field can give you an idea as well. Before going for salary negotiations, be well-informed.

Adjust your expectations. While some people do get offered twice or thrice their current salary, a sudden jump is often the exception rather than the rule. It can usually happen if the position is very hard to fill and you have the rare qualifications that they are looking for. In general, however, a 30-percent salary increase can be expected if you move to another company with the same function within the same industry. That's a very rough benchmark because truly, everything is negotiable and each person's case is unique. There are also different nuances across industries.

Know what you're worth. After doing your research, you should be able to come with a fairly good idea of how much you think you should be getting.

Try to come up with three figures in your mind: ideal salary (highest point), threshold salary (minimum point) and the average salary (median range). You should also be able to articulate why you deserve to receive such an amount.

Know why you would like to work for the company. While salary is an important aspect of your decision to join a company, it is important that you are at least seriously interested in the company. In other words, you should know why the company is worth working for. Otherwise, it would be a waste of time for both parties. At this final stage, it is assumed that you have already asked around and contemplated about the move. Salary should not be your only motive for joining the company. Therefore, before negotiating your salary, you should have a fairly good idea why you would like to work for them. Hiring managers can detect inconsistency and lack of interest.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Listen to the offer. Out of sheer excitement, some people jump the gun and take the lead in conversations. Give the hiring manager the opportunity to make an offer. It is important that you listen well as you may miss out on important points. Based on the manager's offer, you may start negotiations.

Some manager's take the opposite route and ask you how much it would take to hire you. If that were the case, you can go ahead and mention your salary expectations then explain as needed.

Don't assume too much. A lot of inexperienced professionals assume that benefits are standard in the industry. As such, they think that negotiating the cash salary is enough. When looking at your compensation package, always look at both cash and noncash benefits. Discuss each item individually if necessary. Clarify specific points. Things that are taken for granted such as the probationary period or medical benefits can actually be discussed.

For example, some companies pay 100-percent medical bills while others just offer minimum benefits. That makes a big difference in your annual compensation package.

Think about it. Don't be scared to ask the hiring manager for some time to think about the offer. It is expected. However, give a reasonable time frame that you plan to get back to them—perhaps anywhere from one day to two weeks. Anything beyond that would be quite long and may indicate lack of interest. Since moving jobs entails a major change in your life, it is but appropriate that you think well and hard. For married people, it is best to discuss with your spouse and evaluate the consequences of the decision.

Be decisive. Once you have made a decision, make sure that you are ready to stick to it. Integrity in your professional dealings is important. Your word of honor is often more important than any contract you may sign. After all, your reputation is affected.

As you move up the corporate ladder, you will discover that most things about your compensation package can be negotiated. Especially if you have moved up to middle management, you will discover a wider area open for discussion and negotiation. In any kind of dealings, it is important to be sincere and honorable. You may not feel the consequences of your actions at the moment, but people have a way of remembering your professional character and demeanor.

(The author has worked as an executive search consultant and is involved in life-work planning issues. You may reach her at joy.posadas@gmail.com.)

THE GOOD IN GOODBYE

Prolong your professional shelf life with a good resignation

By Roel A. Andag
Contributor

KING HENRY VIII SENT TWO of his six wives to the executioner for beheading. Even if Queen Anne Boleyn and Lady Jane Seymour may have denied in their farewell message any imputed wrongdoing, they both hailed the king and wished him long life, perhaps in the hope of royal clemency. Resigned as they were of their fate, they exemplified graciousness worthy of emulation of anyone who wishes to resign.

Don't treat your resignation as a date with the guillotine. Instead, use the experience to sharpen your career blade. Your goodbye can be your welcome mat to other opportunities such as sustained relationships, job leads and income prospects.

After working nonstop for 10 years, I decided to take a brief break from the 8 to 5. I resigned, with the decision to concentrate on my consulting so that I can enjoy some rest while earning at the same time. Here are some tips that can turn your resignation into a career-sustaining move:

1. Submit your resignation at least 30 days before your intended date of departure. You are complying with the Labor Code and demonstrating good faith to the company as well. Do not broadcast your resignation. There is time for that.

2. E-mail your colleagues a personal farewell note a day prior to your departure. Thank them sincerely. The note should never exceed three brief paragraphs.

3. Avoid emotional notes. They suck the energy out of the reader. Try light and easy.

4. Include your forwarding address, e-mail and phone numbers. If you have a website or blog, include the link and ask them to visit the sites. Make sure that your website and blog will help propel your career not jeopardize it. No offensive content, please.

5. Inform them of what you intend to do post-resignation. The best activities are consulting and volunteering. It tells them that you intend to remain productive while enjoying some downtime.

6. Let them know if you're looking for a job. Ask for referrals.

7. If you resigned because another company has hired you and are proud of it, then mention it. Be aware beforehand of your new company's nondisclosure requirement. Don't blow your cover if you joined the secret service.

8. Enter the e-mail addresses of your intended receivers in the BCC (blind carbon copy) space.

It makes the receiver feel special. BCC lends a sense of exclusivity regardless if everyone else received the same message.

9. If you have pending applications, let your prospect companies know that you have resigned and that you'll be ready to join your next company. This works especially when you have been shortlisted and their decision has not been forthcoming. Do not sound as if you resigned because you are anticipating that one of your prospect companies will hire you readily.

Observe subtlety and *delicadeza*. See No. 8.

10. If they reply, respond in kind. Tell the sender how his or her message affects you. See No. 3.

11. Leave an "out of office" auto-reply in your official e-mail so that letter senders will not be misled. See No. 4.

12. If you have a rift with a colleague, see him personally for a pleasant closure.

For these tips to work, it is assumed that you performed well in your job, related well with your colleagues, and are leaving the company under friendly circumstances.

From my farewell note I harvested, among others, a potential communications consulting contract with one business unit of my former employer, a power lunch with the company's directors (they've never done this to anybody else), on-departure release of my final pay (which takes about a month or two under normal conditions), job referrals and countless coffee and dinner treats. Up to today, my former officemates continue to rain me with all kinds of invitations and networking opportunities.

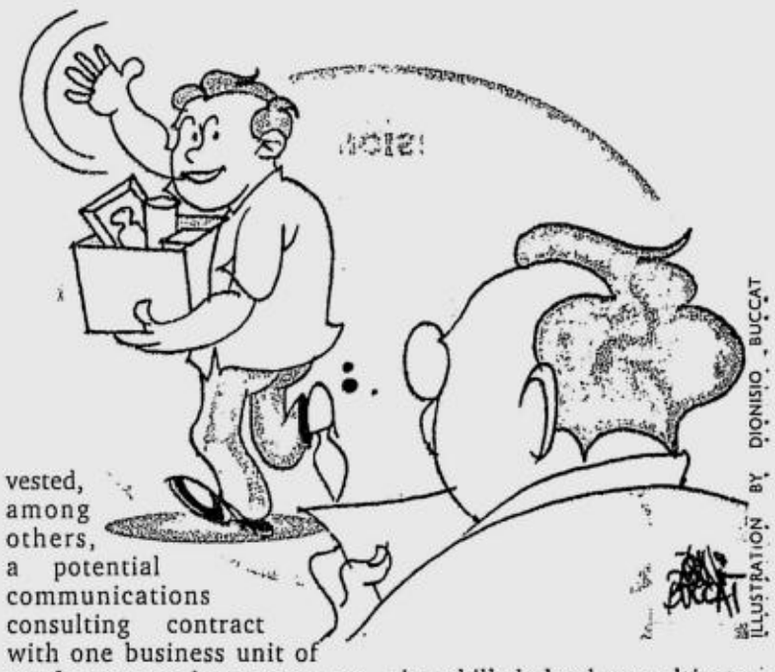


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Of course, these never could have happened if I have not invested in goodwill with my colleagues from the very beginning. My communication skills helped me cultivate meaningful relationships with them.

Do not prolong your welcome if you feel you have to resign under less than friendly circumstances. Know when to leave.

Don't burn bridges regardless of your prevailing workplace condition. Leave the burning to the arsonists. Like Henry's VIII's fated wives who kept the doors open until the end, so should we.

(The author consults for a Fortune 500 company and other clients. Feedback at r_andag@yahoo.com.)

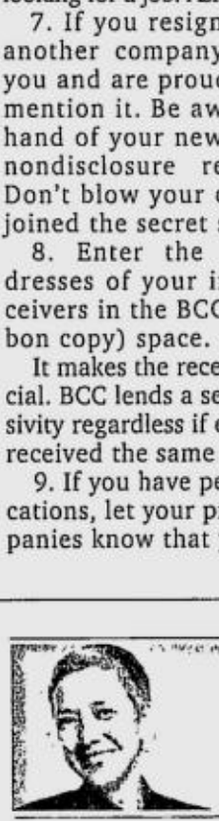
With pure attention

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

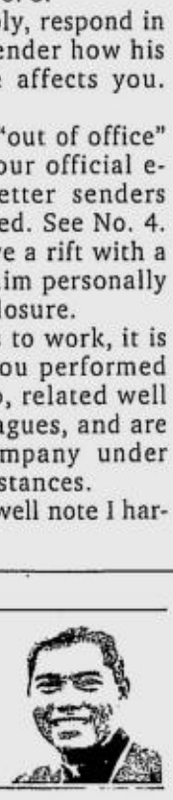
AT AN INFORMAL SESSION DURING A SEMINAR ON SPIRITUALITY in the workplace, a participant who works as a purchaser for a multinational firm said, "What I don't like about Christianity is it always asks you to give up! Give up house, brother, sister, father, mother and follow Jesus? We work in order to support our families, don't we, to secure our children's future, to have the means to have a comfortable life, so why 'give up'...?" It's quite an emotional reaction but chances are many Christians think that way, as many workplace situations reflect, because people ignore what Jesus further says, "...for my sake and the sake of the gospel."

I believe we are not being asked to just give up what we cherish, period. In asking us to "give up," Jesus is trying to push our horizons further out, not limiting us but, in fact, lifting us out of our slavery to puny ambitions. Take the case of Mike who "for love of his family" goes into debt in order to work abroad. Over the years of "sacrificing ... for the sake of his family" they get to acquire things they want—a better home, household appliances, even cell phones for each of the four children—but Mike also "acquires" a *querida* abroad, all the while totally ignorant of his wife's being a *querida* herself to a military man back home. Meanwhile, who suffers most? What "sacrifice ... for the sake of the family" did Mike claim to make? What kind of future for their children are they "securing" when they have cell phones but not the real presence of both parents? Do you see Christ in this picture?

Before we can even claim to be sacrificial victims, let's be real. To stop the masquerade and to benefit from Jesus' words let's examine the fruit of our decisions and regard His teachings with pure attention. (*E-mail the author* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



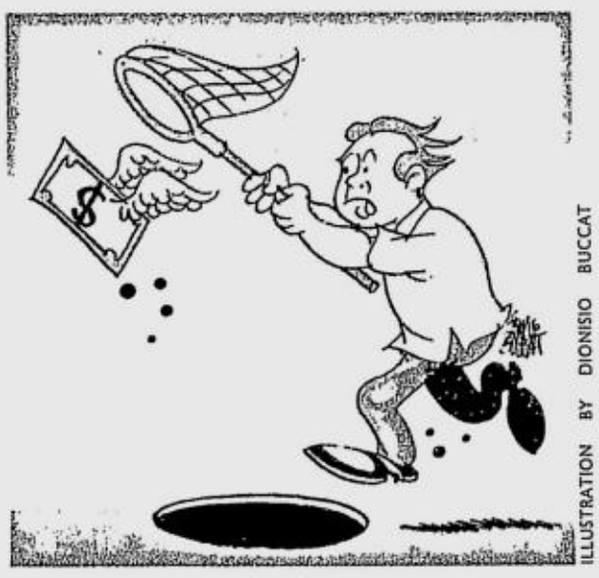


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel. Mk 10: 17-30

Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters ... for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age...

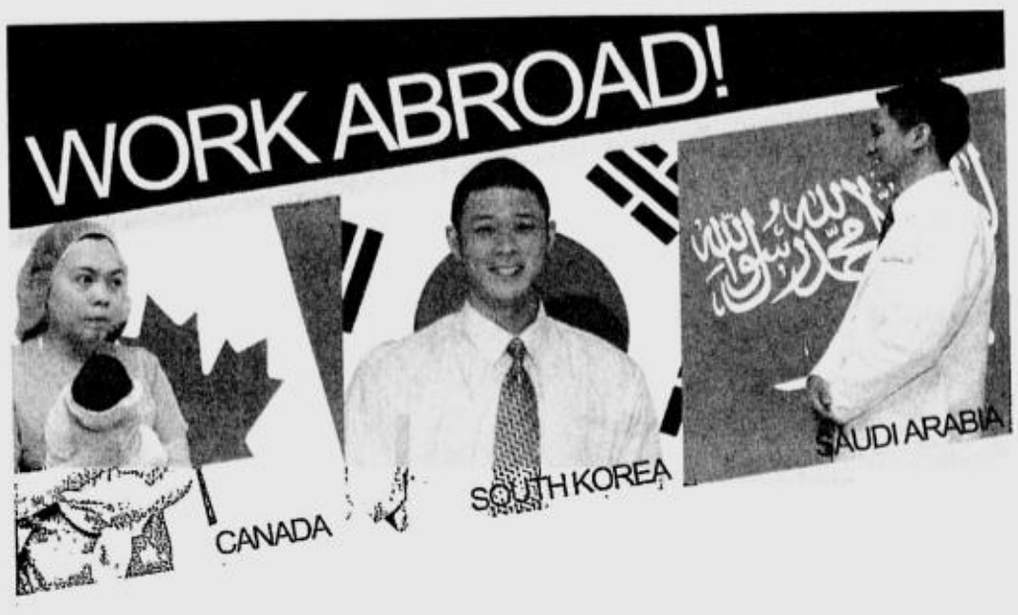
Leaving everything

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

SOME OF OUR FILIPINO COMPATRIOTS WOULD SPEND ALMOST EVerything they have in order to work abroad. Some would sell their lands, work-animals, or even houses and eventually leave their brothers, sisters, parents or children for the sake of gaining 50 or even a hundred times more than they can gain here in our country. While some overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) do find more money and material reward for their sacrifices, most would however suffer with deep regret the breakup of their families, behavioral dysfunction in the children, and perhaps even distortions of their good moral dispositions towards life and spiritual realities. Thus, the social and psychological "costs" of working in foreign lands would somehow offset the financial and material advantage so that the overall gain the OFW gets would not really be more than what the local workers get.

The important reason for "leaving everything" or sacrificing oneself in difficult, tedious, boring or even risky work here or abroad could only be, in the words of Jesus, "for His sake and of the gospel"— this is the only assurance for a hundredfold reward in this life and even in the life after. This hundredfold reward for the local workers may not be in terms of the money gained in salaries but in the hundreds of opportunities and situations which have "home-court advantage" so to say, for them to avail of to attain their integral personal growth and development and the total welfare of their families.

When we calculate how much we could gain from our work, the sacrifices and everything that it demands from us, we would eventually realize that only Jesus and our faith in Him could give us everything which our hearts truly desire. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)



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(for Investments, Borrowings and Derivative Transactions)

Responsibilities

The position directs, controls, coordinates and carries out activities with respect to administrative matters; establishes, maintains and supervises the updating of accurate and complete accounting records and sound accounting/internal controls related to borrowings and derivative transactions; prepares financial statements related disclosures and reports for management financial reporting; and ensures always that the work area's objectives are accomplished in a timely, orderly, effective and efficient manner. At this level, the position is expected to work more independently from the professional staff supervisor.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Investments, Borrowings, and Bank Reconciliation Section (CTAC-IBR), Controller's Department (CTL).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting/Finance; a CPA qualification; a CFA or equivalent experience in fixed income securities and derivative instruments is highly desirable.
- at least 10 years experience in accounting with proven supervisory capacity, preferably in a computerized environment in a large organization.
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills with ability to provide feedback to subordinates.
- proficiency in MS Excel, MS Word, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to extract information, and to generate standard and ad hoc reports.
- proficient understanding of the accounting policies, practices and systems as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in a multilateral institution.
- in-depth understanding of the interactions among different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of relevant areas so as to enable accounting concepts to be applied appropriately.
- in-depth knowledge of accounting systems and interface with other systems and work areas.
- solid understanding of US or International generally accepted accounting concepts and principles, and their application.
- ability to plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines.
- analytical and systematic, with strong numerical skills and attention to detail.
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Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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Canfield of Chicken Soup meets the Filipino soul

MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE GATHERED ON OCT. 2, to hear Jack Canfield talk in his Mega Guru Event: *Personal Excellence and Organizational Success* held at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila. Canfield, the world's leading success coach and co-author of the phenomenal Chicken Soup for the Soul™ series, imparted key concepts in his new book, The Success Principles™, as well as expound on their practical applications in daily life. Attendees of the event were engaged in activities and interactions. Guests included top management from the country's leading companies in real estate, pharmaceutical and consumer industries.

Canfield arrived from Malaysia Saturday afternoon with the CEO of the Institute of Training and Development, Dr. Peter Chee. The Philippines is the third leg in his ITD-Mega Guru Asian tour. A press conference was held at Powerbooks Greenbelt to formally launch The Success Principles™ and book-signing events were held in select Powerbooks branches. In his three-day stay, he was presented the key to the city by Mayor Lito Atienza and given a tour around the metro. He also paid a courtesy call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and an inspirational talk was given to members of the Cabinet. This is Canfield's first visit to Manila.

For his upcoming project with Dr. Chee, *Living the Success Principles in Asia*, he interviewed some of the Philippine's top CEOs and entrepreneurs. Canfield enthuses that Filipinos are quite remarkable because of the inner joy they radiate even in the midst of tragedies or disasters, especially in light of typhoon Milenyo's aftermath. He is excited to come back next year for a three-day seminar and to know more about the Philippine community.

DOLE clarifies apprenticeship period

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYment (DOLE) clarified that the apprenticeship period is more than three months but not over six months in accordance with DOLE Circular No. 2, Series of 2006.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that DOLE Circular No. 2 amended certain provision of Department Order No. 68-04, series of 2004, which provided for the implementing guidelines in the implementation of the Kasanayan at Hanapbuhay (KASH) program.

D.O. 68-04 stated that "the apprenticeship period shall not be less than four months but not more than six months."

DOLE Circular No. 2, on the other hand, provides that the apprenticeship period shall be for a period of more than three months but not over six months. It also states that the employer has the option to employ the apprentice even before the completion of the apprenticeship period.

Brion clarified that the circular did not categorically reduce the minimum period of apprenticeship training from four months to three months as reported earlier.

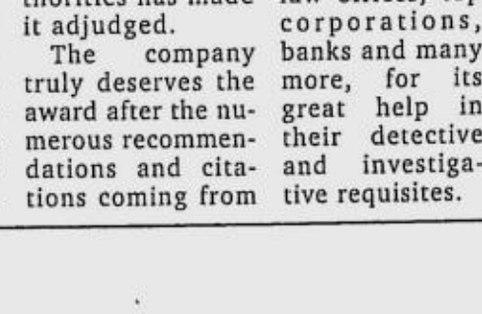
He said that contrary to the previous Department Order, DOLE Circular No. 2 expressly specified what have been provided for by the Labor Code of the Philippines.

The Labor Chief said that Article 58(c) of Book II Title II of the Labor Code defines "an apprenticeship occupation as any trade, form of employment or occupation which requires more than three months of practical training on the job supplemented by related theoretical instruction."

DOLE Circular No. 2 is consistent with the Labor Code, Brion said.

"Outstanding Private Detective Agency of the Year"

TRUTH VERIFIER Systems, Inc. (TVSI), the nation's renowned private detective agency for its exemplary performance since it was established in 1966, was awarded as the "Outstanding Private Detective Agency of the Year" by the Civil Security Group (CSG). The award was granted when CSG celebrated its 26th Anniversary on Oct. 2, 2006 at the PNP Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City.



Truth Verifier Systems Inc chief executive officer Rosario D. Nulud (right) receives the award "Outstanding Private Detective of the Year" from Police Deputy Director General Avelino I. Razon, Jr. (left) and Hon. Gilbert C. Teodoro, Jr. (center).

TVSI's accomplishments and continuous dedications to help solve various cases – corporate fraud, civil and criminal crimes, personal cases, and other incidents, along with proper coordination and cooperation of the authorities has made it adjudged.

The company truly deserves the award after the numerous recommendations and citations coming from various industries including manufacturing firms, security agencies, accounting firms, law offices, top corporations, banks and many more, for its great help in their detective and investigative requisites.

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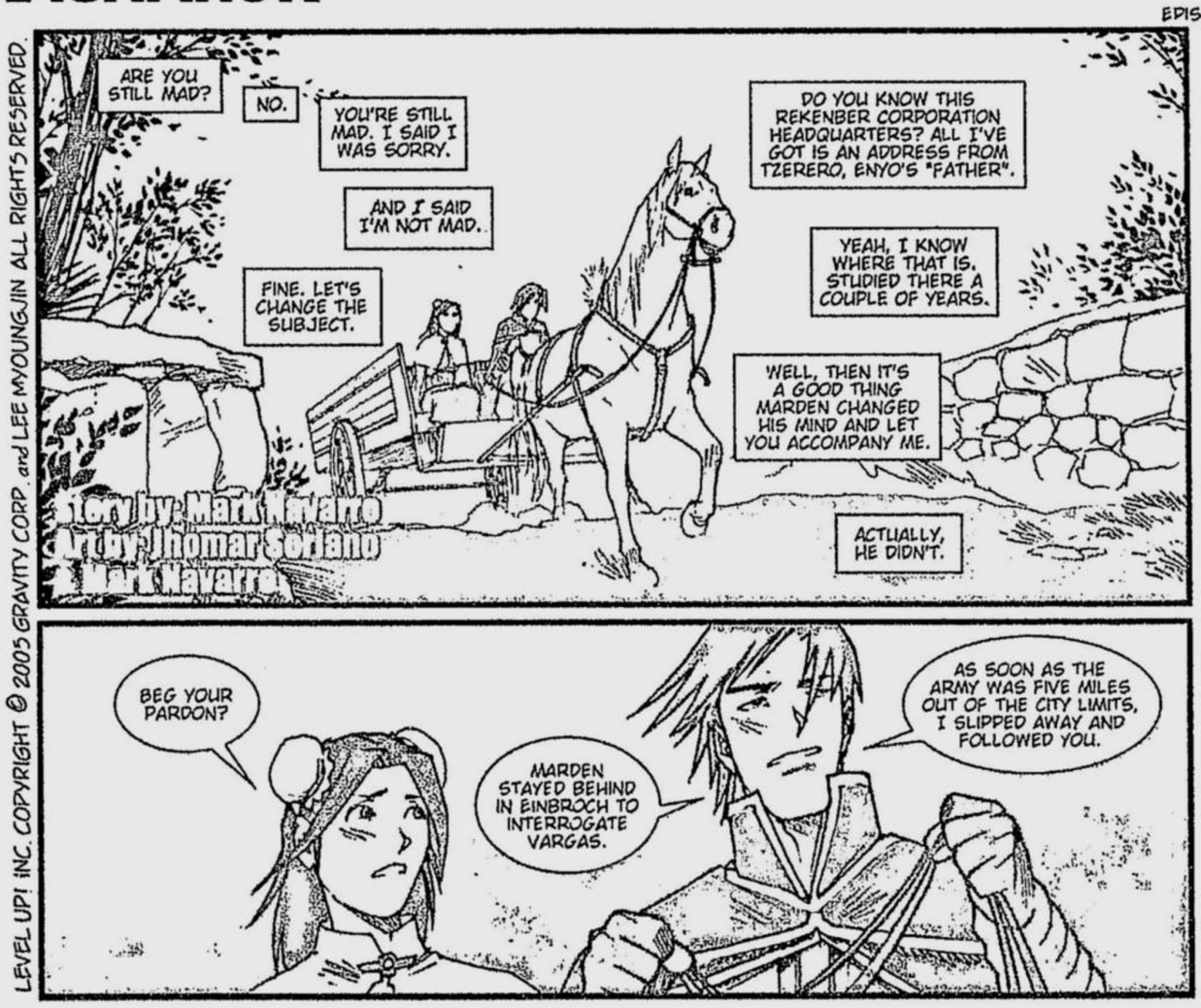

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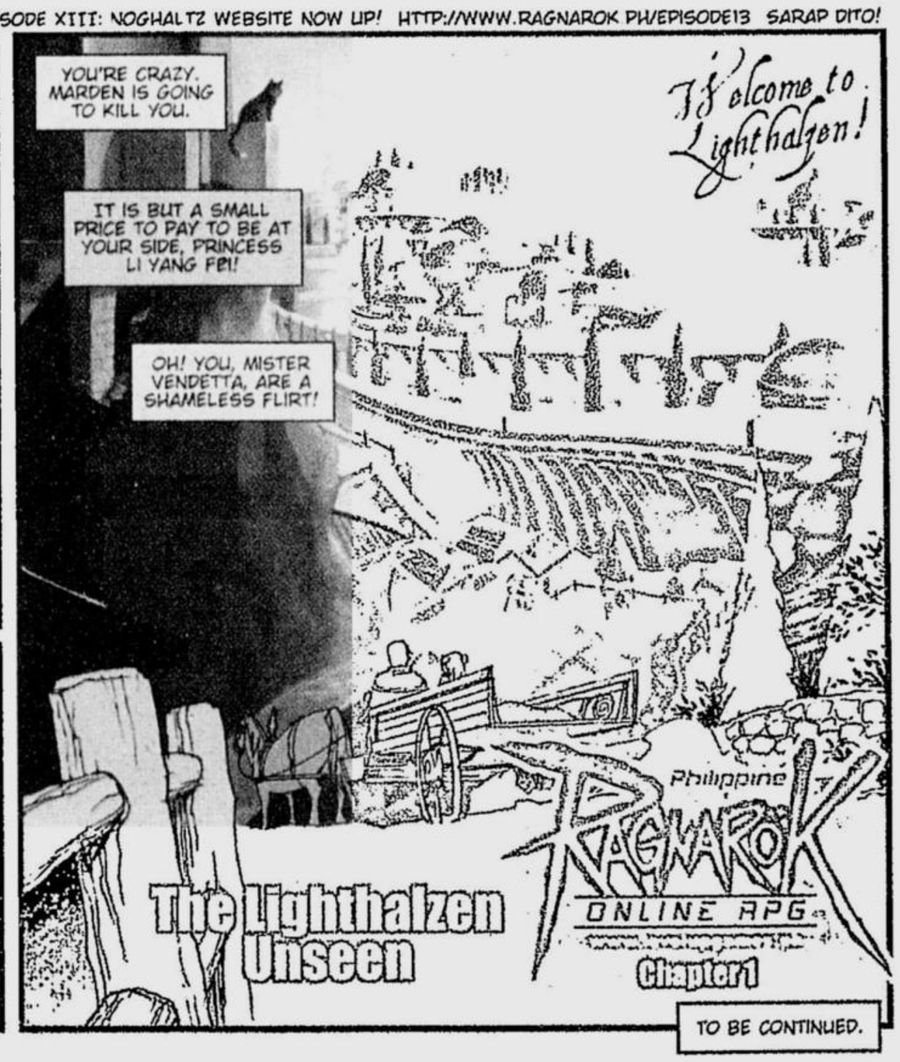

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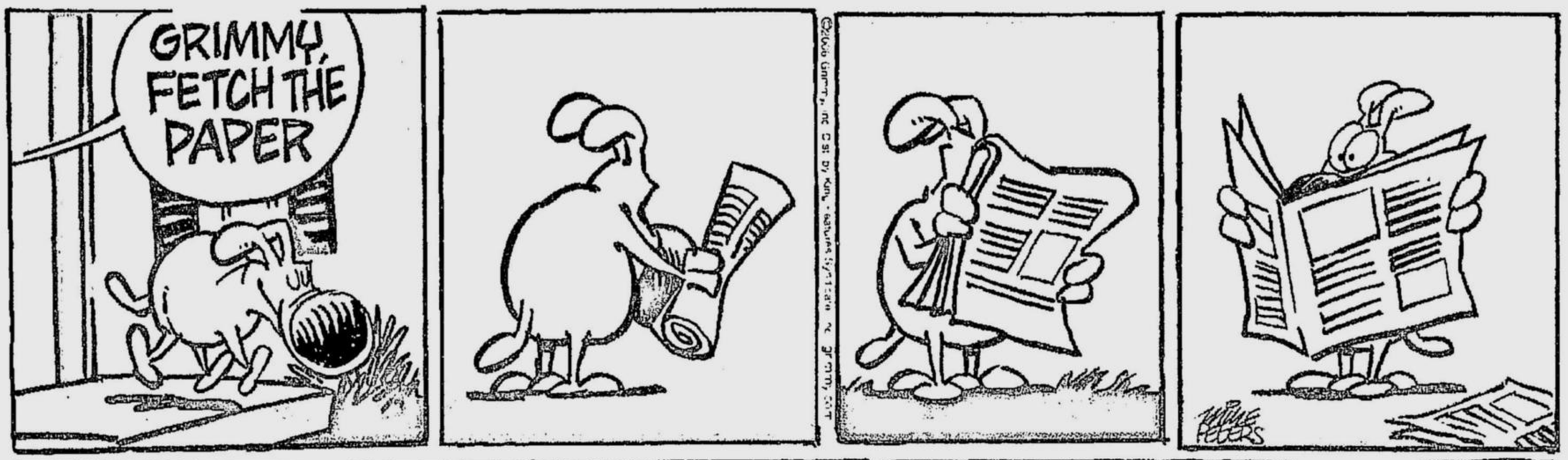

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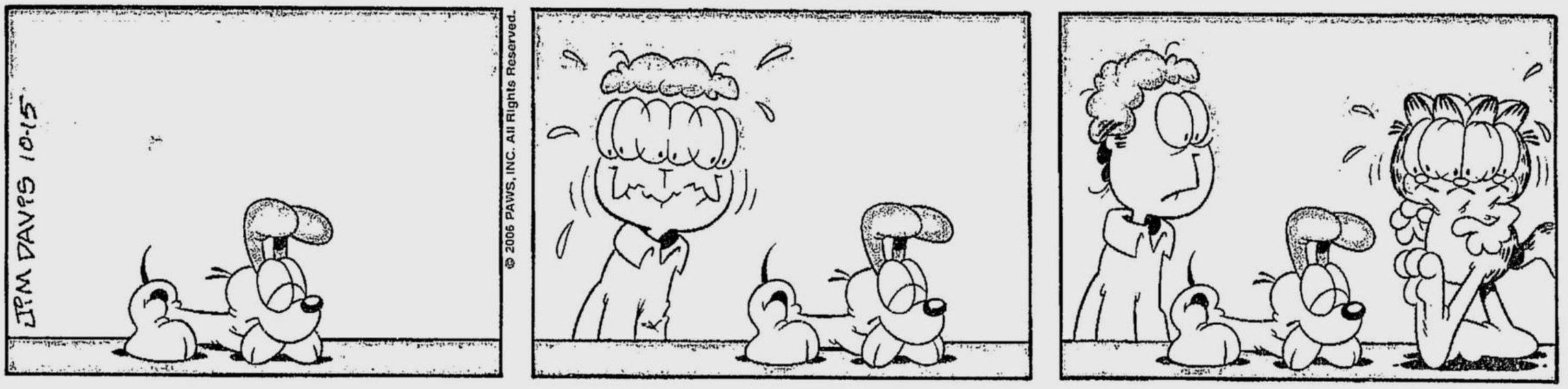
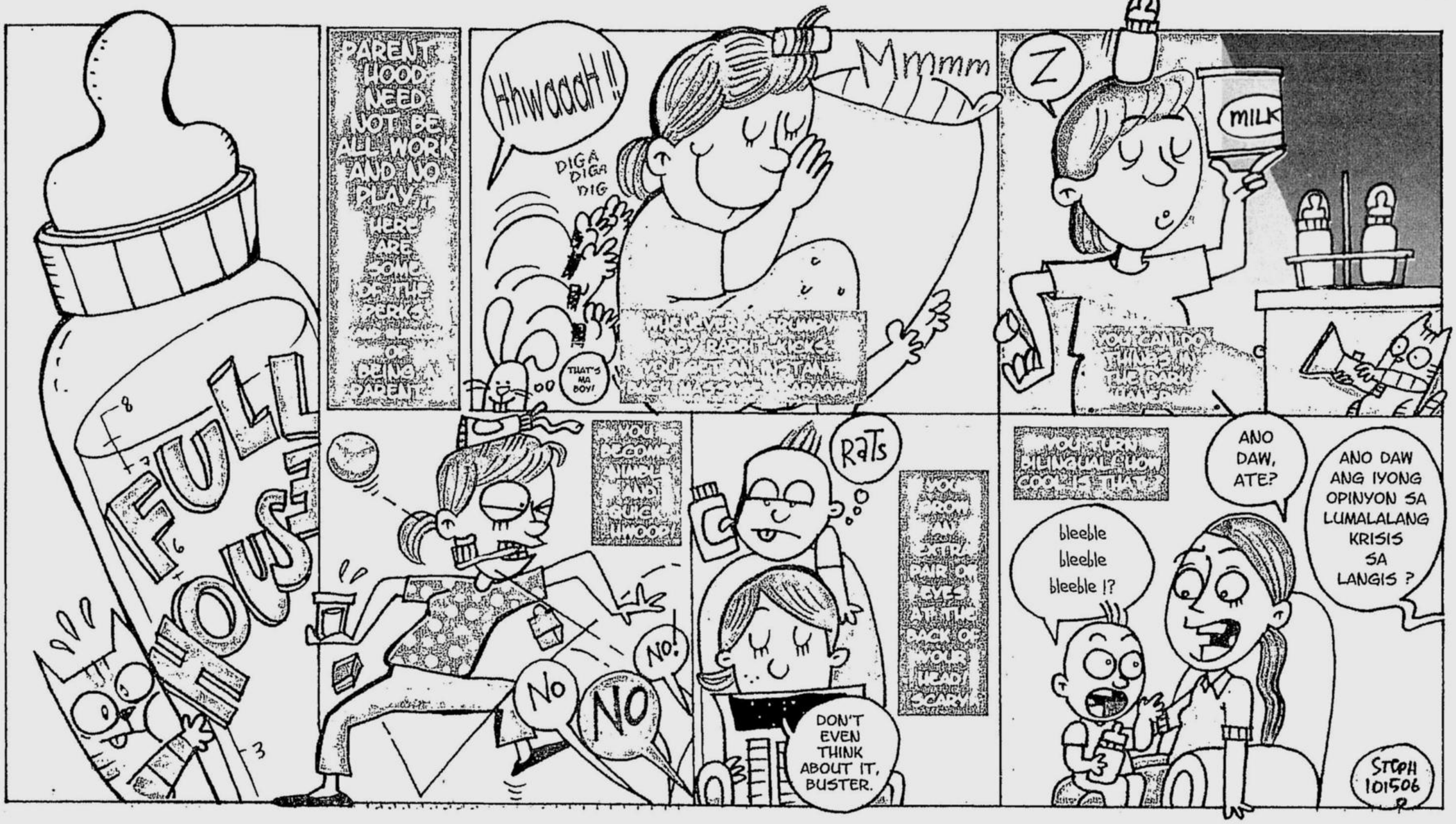


FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



*sunday*INQUIRER *magazine*

October 15, 2006

UNLUCKY FAMOUS

How Sam Milby, the country's 'it' boy, is handling the rollercoaster ride to stardom

plus **10** Things you gotta to do get famous • Where celebs shop and dine • The highest paid endorsers • The star makers, and more . . .

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BROWSER

THE POWERBOYS

The fact is, the star-making process amounts to throwing stuff on a wall and seeing what sticks

The Moneymakers

Which celeb endorsers command the most coin? An INQUIRER source names the stars with the top asking prices for TV spots and billboard appearances

	Celebrity	Asking price	Endorsements
01	**Sharon Cuneta**	P10 million+	Globe, Alaska, Ladies' Choice
02	**Manny Pacquiao**	P10 million+	Smart, San Miguel Beer, Magnolia
03	**Lea Salonga**	P10 million+	Bayo
04	**KC Concepcion**	P10 million+	Human, Palmolive
05	**Dolphy**	P10 million+	Dolfenal, Smart
06	**Mikee Cojuangco**	P10 million+	Milk & Co.
07	**Regine Velasquez**	P7 million+	Wow Magic Sing
08	**Vilma Santos**	P7 million+	Globe, Bear Brand
09	**Kris Aquino**	P5 million+	Smart, San Miguel Beer, Purefoods
10	**Aga Muhlach**	P5 million+	Jollibee, Globe, Quaker Oats

The Kleenex Celeb

We use 'em and then we throw 'em: the disposable stars

By Eric S. Caruncho

Remember the Power Boys? No? Me neither.

How quickly we forget.

Why, it was only three years ago when the hype machine trumpeted Jordan Herrera, Greg Martin, Jay Salas and Frank Garcia as the Next Big Thing. The Power Boys, or P4 as the boy band was alternatively known, were going to be Manila's answer to Taiwanese pretty boys F4 (original, no?).

In fact, P4 barely made a ripple, before vanishing without a trace. Within a few weeks of their debut, it was as if they had never existed. *Hindi pa sumisikat, laos na.* Somewhere, four guys are probably still scratching their heads and asking themselves. "What happened?"

My theory? The Power Boys certainly weren't bad looking and they weren't untalented (at least not by current standards). But once "Meteor Garden" ended its phenomenal run and people forgot about F4, they certainly weren't going to care about some lame F4 clones.

Then there was Hero Angeles, touted as the next big thing after topping a much-publicized Star Circle search and being paired with Korean sweetie Sandara Park. Then his manager got into trouble with the powers that be, and before Hero could become a real hero, he was the villainous, ungrateful young upstart. Poof. There have been soft murmurs of a comeback, but nobody's holding their breaths.

Welcome to the world of the disposable celebrity, here one minute and gone the next, blink and you'll miss their admittedly short-lived moment in the spotlight. The fact is, the star-making process amounts to throwing stuff on a wall and seeing what sticks. You get a bunch of young, good-looking kids with varying amounts of talent, get them exposure on national TV, maybe put them in a movie, and see who the public will buy. Sometimes, you get Sam Milby. And sometimes, you get Matthew Mendoza. Matthew who? My point, exactly. •

10 Steps to Making It Big

Some things you could do to become famous

1. Bask in reflected glory. Hang out long enough with famous people, and some of that fame is bound to rub off on you—think "Entourage." Mid-90s one-hit wonder DJ Alvaro had been largely forgotten, reduced to low-paying gigs at obscure clubs after "Ang Tipo Kong Lalaki," until she started hanging out with sexpot Aleck Bovick, fanning rumors (never actually confirmed) that they were having a hot, lesbian affair. Corollary to this…

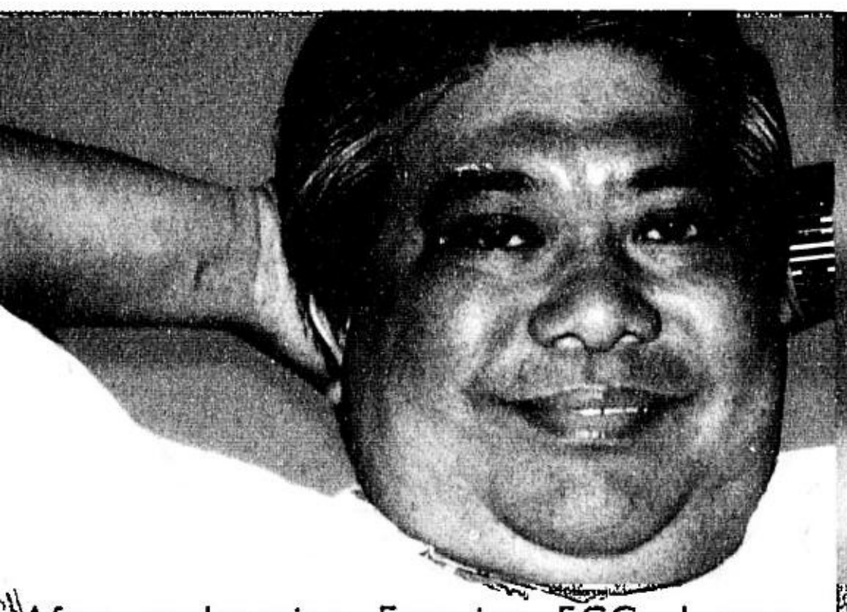
2. Sleep with somebody famous. Or, if they don't want to sleep with you, cry out that you're having/fathering his/her baby. By the time the DNA tests come in, you'll have made the tabloids. Then make a tearful confession.

3. Get a makeover. Liposuction, nose job, boob job—the works. It's still all about the way you look, baby.

4. "Throw a brick at someone famous." This was said by the American newspaper columnist Walter Winchell back in the 1930s, but it's still true today. When in doubt, attack! (See no. 2)

Continued page 10

20 Years Of Excellence And Expertise



After undergoing Exercise ECG, I was relieved to know that my heart was in good condition and I could still jog regularly.

Mr. Resty Navarro
Grandfather

Echocardiogram helped my doctors know what was wrong with my heart and decide on the best course of treatment.

Mrs. Imelda Brotonel Zalameda
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Calcium Scoring revealed my risk for a heart attack—quickly and without any pain.

Mr. Soon Eng Sin
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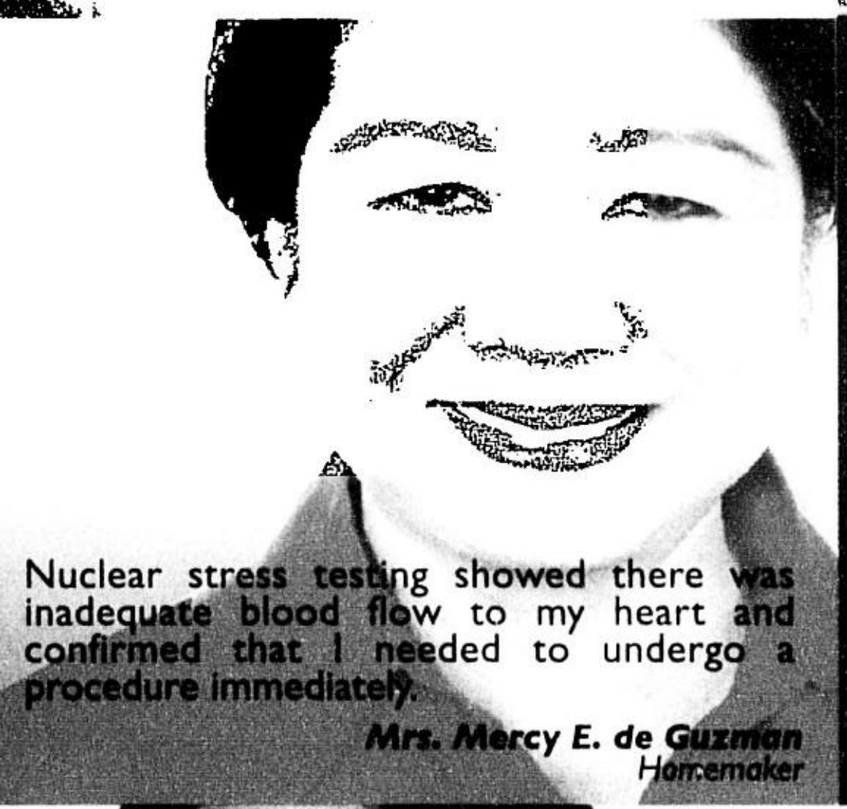
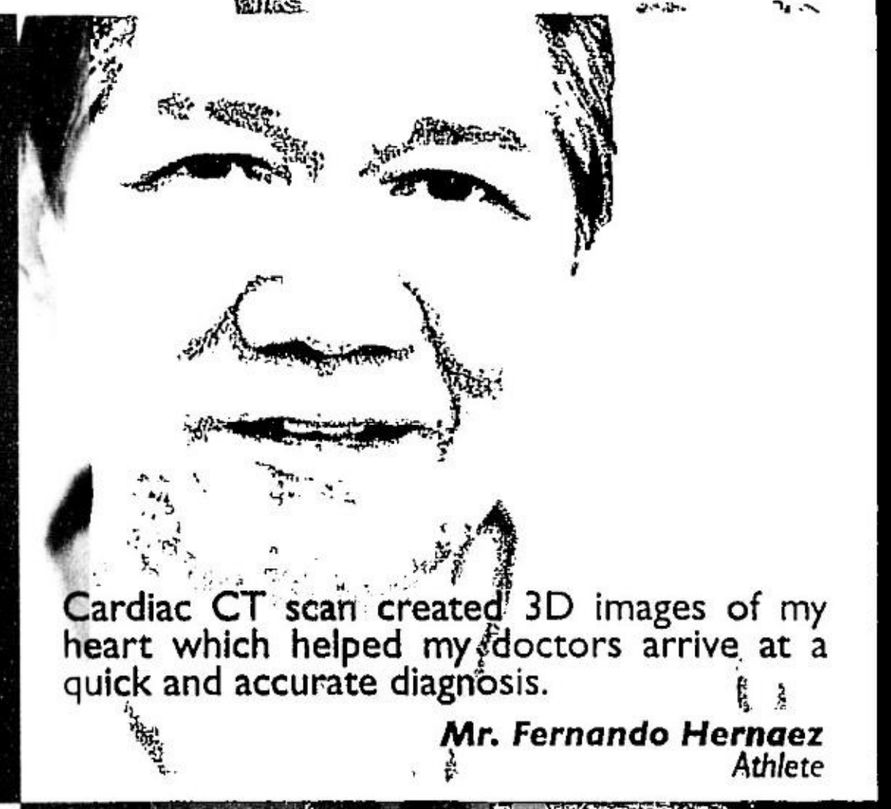


Nuclear stress testing showed there was inadequate blood flow to my heart and confirmed that I needed to undergo a procedure immediately.

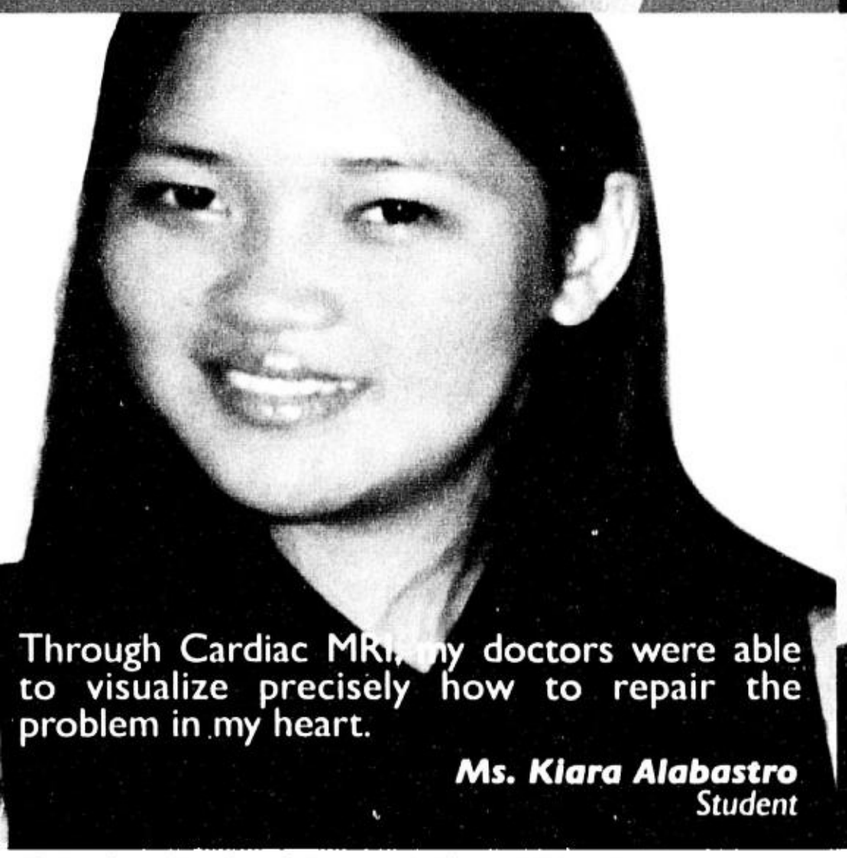
Mrs. Mercy E. de Guzman
Homemaker

STATE-OF-THE-HEART



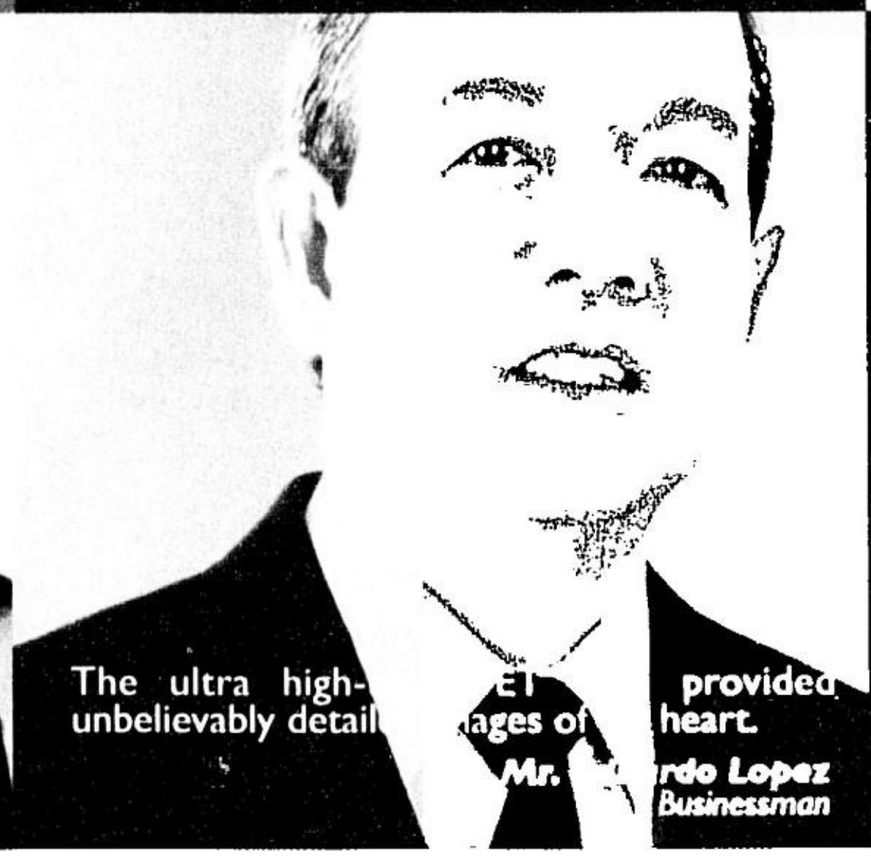
Cardiac CT scan created 3D images of my heart which helped my doctors arrive at a quick and accurate diagnosis.

Mr. Fernando Hernaez
Athlete



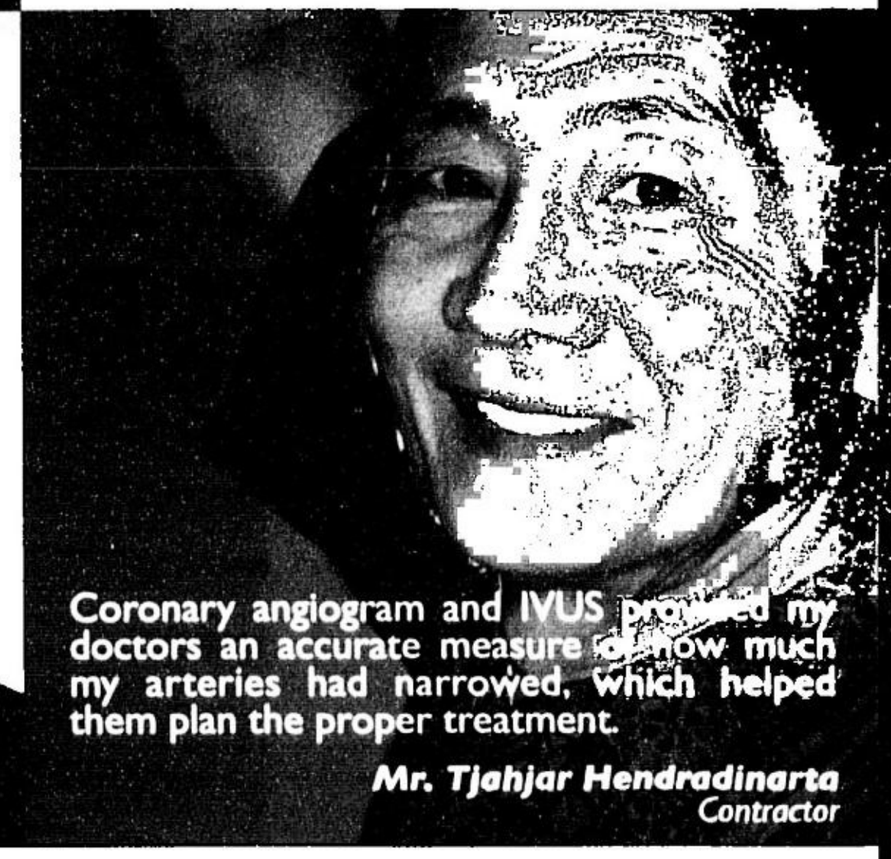
Through Cardiac MRI, my doctors were able to visualize precisely how to repair the problem in my heart.

Ms. Kiara Alabastro
Student



The ultra high- ET provided unbelievably detail ages of heart.

Mr. rdo Lopez
Businessman



Coronary angiogram and IVUS provided my doctors an accurate measure of how much my arteries had narrowed, which helped them plan the proper treatment.

Mr. Tjahjar Hendradinarta
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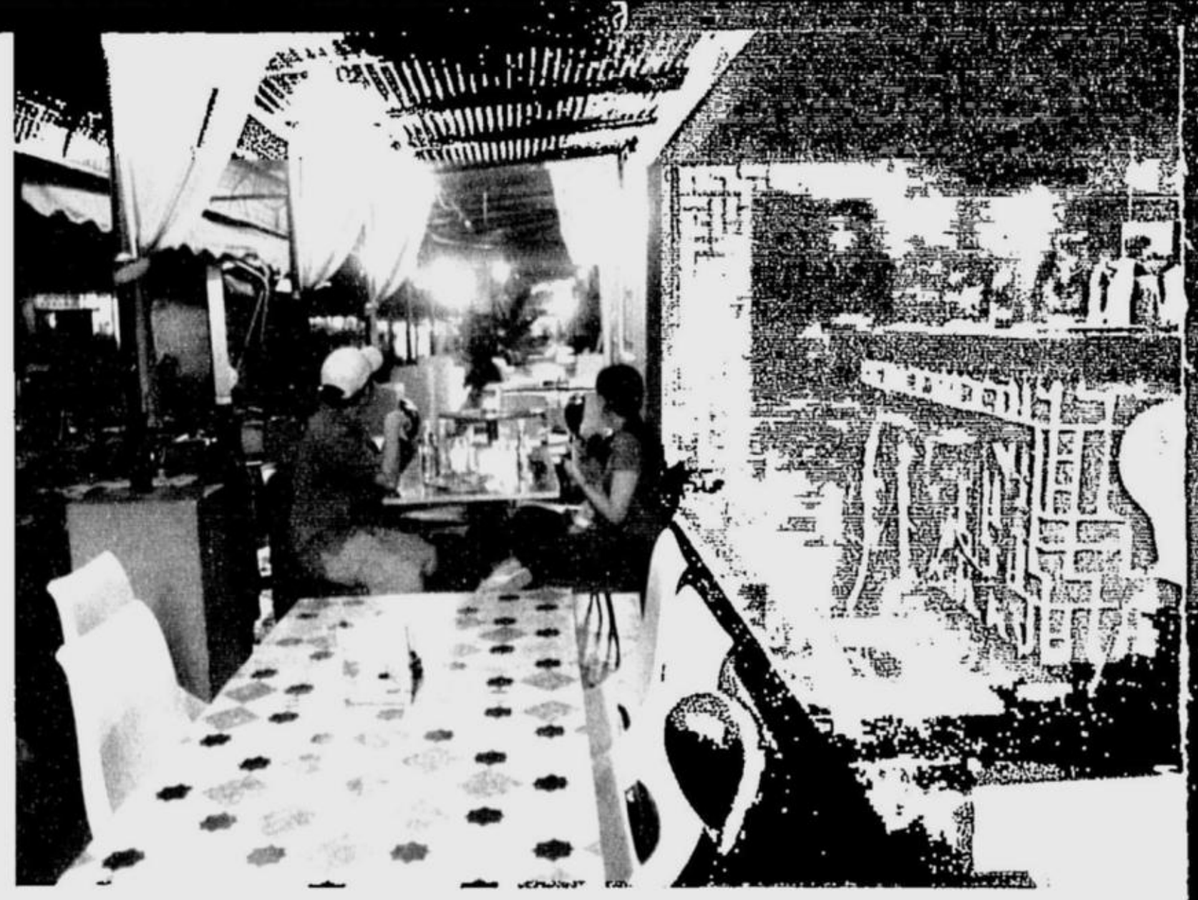
Menu

By Margaux Salcedo

Famous Eats



Common folk eat; rich folk dine.True? The answer depends on whether you want to see or be seen. Here's where to eat, even if you're not quite a celebrity

To See: Esquinita, Sgt. Esguerra St., Quezon City

SO WHERE would I find the most *artista*-populated restaurant in Metro Manila? Those in the know pointed me to Esquinita, a kind of side street, as the name implies, located on Sgt. Esguerra in Quezon City, accommodating a quaint row of restaurants. A stone's throw away from rival networks ABS-CBN and GMA, I was guaranteed to bump into a television or movie star on any given night.

This is because the venue is a favorite hangout of television and movie production managers and creatives who just want to grab a cheap beer at the end of the day, relax among familiar faces, and enjoy good Filipino soul food.

I particularly enjoyed Ci-wee-ti's Filipino comfort foods with very aggressive flavors: *tapsilog*, beef steak and sardine concoctions with huge heapings of rice. Vanilla has interesting vanilla-flavored dishes (a must try is the vanilla-flavored *lengua*). Or if you just want to down a beer, comedian Jon Lapus' Graffiti has dirt cheap *pulutan* such as *isaw manok* (P15) and *tenga* (P20) to go with dirt cheap beer (P35).

Another appeal of the place is that if you want be "discovered," you just might. The night I was there, a Ryan Agoncillo look-alike was hired on the spot for an ABS-CBN soap in need of someone to play Ryan's brother. Not surprising, considering the various restaurant owners are responsible for many of the big hits of the past 10 years! Vanilla is co-owned by Starstruck director Lino Cayetano and Joel Mercado, who is head writer of the noontime variety show "MTB"; Tonic Bar is owned by ABS-CBN vice president Deo Endrinal, who oversees pop culture institutions "ASAP" and "The Buzz"; and Lena's Pinoy Fusion is co-owned by talent manager Biboy Arboleda, who helped hone talents such as Rico Yan, and who is currently a training consultant for Little Big Star.

To Be Seen: Embassy Cuisine, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

JIM GUIAO-PUNZALAN

But when the big stars themselves want to be seen, *isaw manok* isn't on the menu. The menu starts with *foie gras*, beer takes a backseat to Bordeaux, and French cuisine takes over Filipino comfort food—that is, if the celebrities eat at all. The hot and happening "to be seen" place of the moment is Embassy Cuisine at the Fort, where stars come to be seen among other stars.

Tim Yap, Generation X's party icon and **Super**'s lead editor, who co-owns the Embassy power troika of Cafeteria, Cuisine and Club, shares that at Cuisine, celebrities themselves gush and ask to meet other celebrities. Probably because at Cuisine, bigger names are involved. International singer Coco Lee flies in to chill with Tim, unbeknownst to the media; Apl of the Black Eyed Peas came in search of a hot *bebot*; and Donita Rose herself allegedly made her way to greet the famous international wrestler Batista, who visited Cuisine while he was here in Manila. Eye candy like Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness are abundant past 10 p.m.

The impressive French-Oriental menu attracts society ladies who lunch. Even politicians like Senator Joker Arroyo reportedly appreciate Cuisine's menu. The dishes are as well executed as they are creative. The Lobster Capuccino is as savory as it is cute; the *foie gras* platter, an item slowly becoming a staple for fine dining restaurants across the country, has two unique twists: the *Foie Gras* and Daikon Sandwich and *Foie Gras* Parfait with Cranberry Chutney. For the main course, Chilean sea bass, Cuisine's signature dish, is always a sure winner; but what was more impressive was their Braised Lamb Shank, which was very well-marinated, tender and simply delicious.

The Real Scene: L' Opera, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

Real foodies, though, prefer the revived Italian restaurant L'Opera, now also located at the Fort. With its exquisite interiors, romantic ambience, impressive wine list and definitive menu, this trip to Tuscany is where you will find the rich and famous who truly have taste, in both senses of the word. VIP guests run the gamut from showbiz personalities such as Ruffa Guttierez, to A-list socialites Hindy Weber-Tantoco, to political figures such as Imelda Marcos, to business leaders such as the Zobels, all simply minding their own business.

RYAN LIM

But at L'Opera, the experience is defined not by the crowd but by the menu. With two Italian chefs in the kitchen, Tuscan delights are delivered with oomph, the flavors of each meal exquisitely outlined. From the citrus-strong homemade Italian dressing accompanying the *salmone affumicato*, to the salty *prosciutto* that envelopes the plain *tagliatelle*, to the sweet truffle sauce that comes with the beef tenderloin, L'Opera specializes in controlling otherwise bold flavors, making each dish flavorful yet contained, delivering just the right amount of bite for the discerning palate.

Whatever your preferred ambience, the great thing to remember is that you need not spend gazillions to spot a star in this country. Our A-listers appreciate cheap eats as well as fine dining restos. So whether you want to see or be seen, you can expect a good bite. Personally, I prefer gazing into my chocolate cake over Linda Blair-ing for eye candy, but if you would rather exercise those neck muscles and go for maximum peripheral vision, keep these three restaurants top of mind, and you're bound to hobnob with the stars. •

Feature

By Katrina A. Holigores

The StarMakers

Meet the country's most influential celebrity creators, and find out what they're looking for

When I started out, I didn't have any desire to be an actress or to learn how to act. I just wanted to be famous.

- Katharine Hepburn

FAME has been described as many things, but it always fascinates. It's an ideal vehicle for the publicity- and the power-hungry; it's a means to enhance one's financial and economic status. How one achieves fame or celebrity can be attributed to many factors, although the most important quality one must possess has never been clearly defined.

In my own pursuit of what defines fame, I went out and interviewed three different personalities who have one thing in common: They have enough influence to put someone, or themselves, in the public's eye, and eventually turn this influence into one of the most lucrative industries today -the business of celebrity.

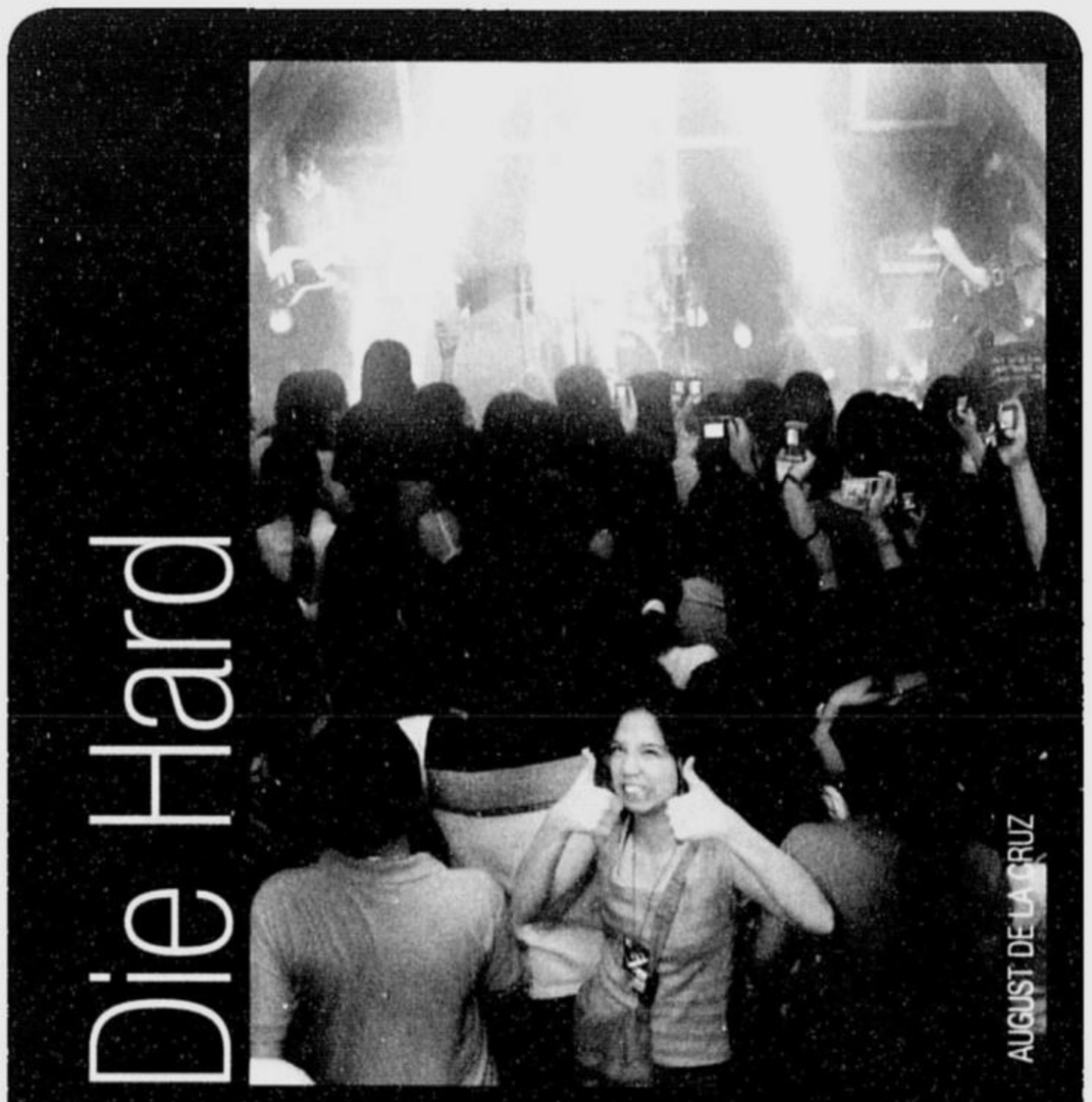
When one thinks of fame, one automatically thinks of the entertainment industry. The faces that grace both the big and the small screen are most likely to become household names, but the journey to ubiquity is not an easy one. Aside from having been part of the TV and film industries for over 30 years, director Johnny Manahan, known as "Mr. M," is also the head of ABS-CBN Star Magic, home to such stars as Claudine Barretto, Piolo Pascual, Sam Milby and Kristine Hermosa. Mr. M took over when director Lino Brocka died in 1992. Star Magic's talents go through a series of workshops and seminars intended to hone or develop their craft, but admittedly, the idea started out as a business move.

"Star Magic was formed primarily because it was deemed a profitable endeavor to start farming our own talents for ABS rather than borrowing from others," says Mr. M. "We never promise our talents that we are going to make them famous; we just tell them that we can help, but they have to work hard." On the subject of what qualities one must possess to become famous, he repeatedly used the word "magic." "Magic is something that is carried over from the talent spotter all the way to the common people. But this has to be supported by genuine talent for staying power. That's why it's very important for genuine craft to be developed, or the star will fade with time and age.

"You also have to stay visible," continues Mr. M. "You can't be gone too long. If you're starting, you should be seen. Just work and get any kind of work that you can. The audience is very fickle—if they don't see you, their attention and interest will eventually shift to someone else."

Fame is fickle food upon a shifting plate.

- Emily Dickinson



The adventures of real-life fans

The Music Fan

"I'M not a groupie. I'm just a plain fan," declares Zobel Certeza, 23 (giving the thumbs up, above), an employee of a Makati-based I.T. firm.

Zobel thinks the term "groupie" has a very negative connotation. She thinks a "groupie" is a fan *"na sobrang* O.A., seeks emotional ek-ek, and worse, takes drugs or sleeps with the band."

No matter how busy she is, she finds time to watch her favorite bands Hale and Up Dharma Down, wherever they perform in the metro—be it in Mayric's, Phi Bar in Metrowalk, Ratsky, or Virgin Café.

"I buy tickets *talaga,"* she beams. Her other friends go as far as Baguio and Boracay to dig the gigs of one of the country's top bands.

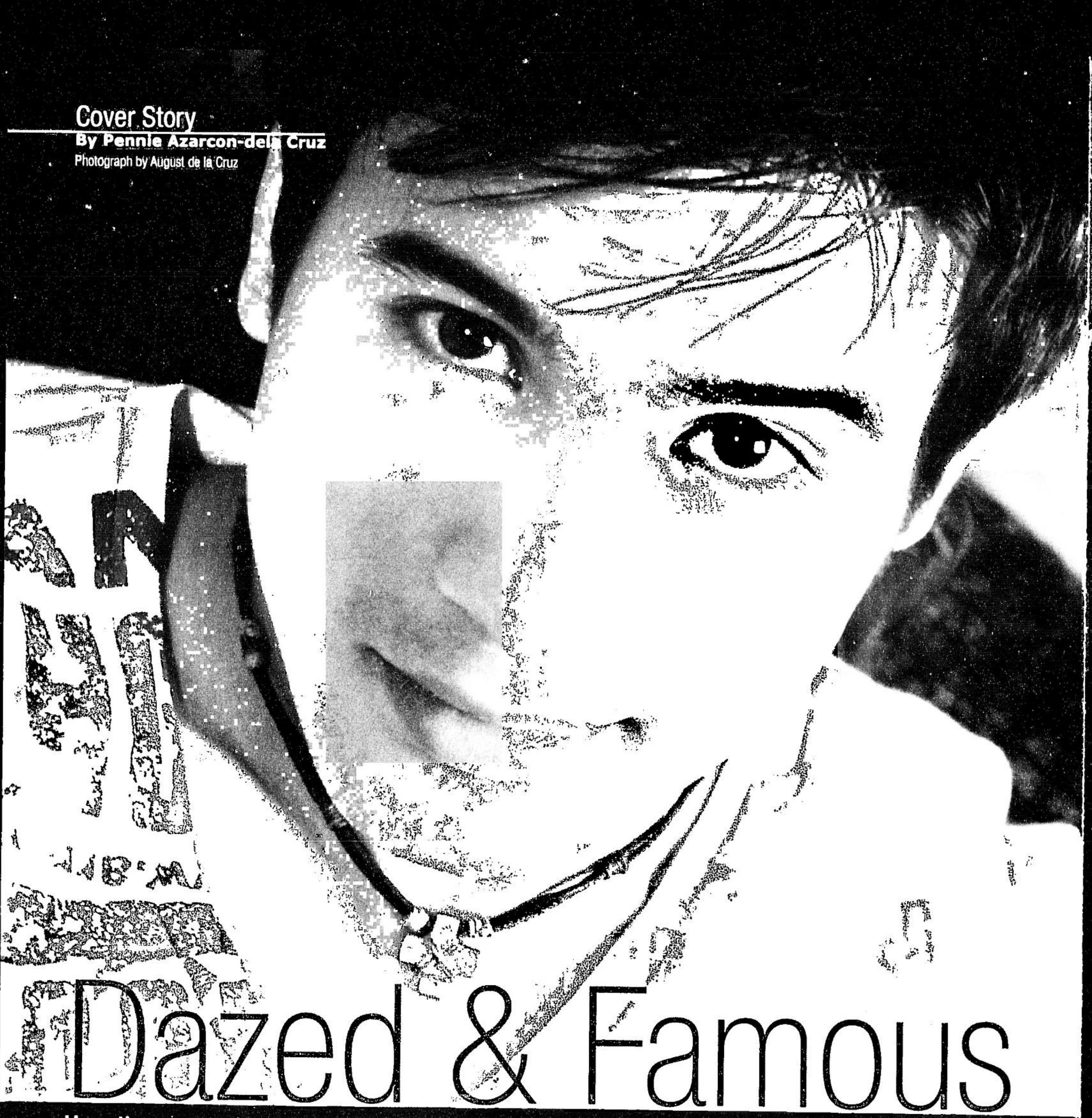
Zobel relates that when she first caught the "Broken Sonnet" video of Hale on TV for the first time, she thought it was "some Asian band." When she did research on the Internet, that's when she realized that they were Pinoy.

Continued page 11

Cover Story

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Photograph by August de la Cruz



Dazed & Famous

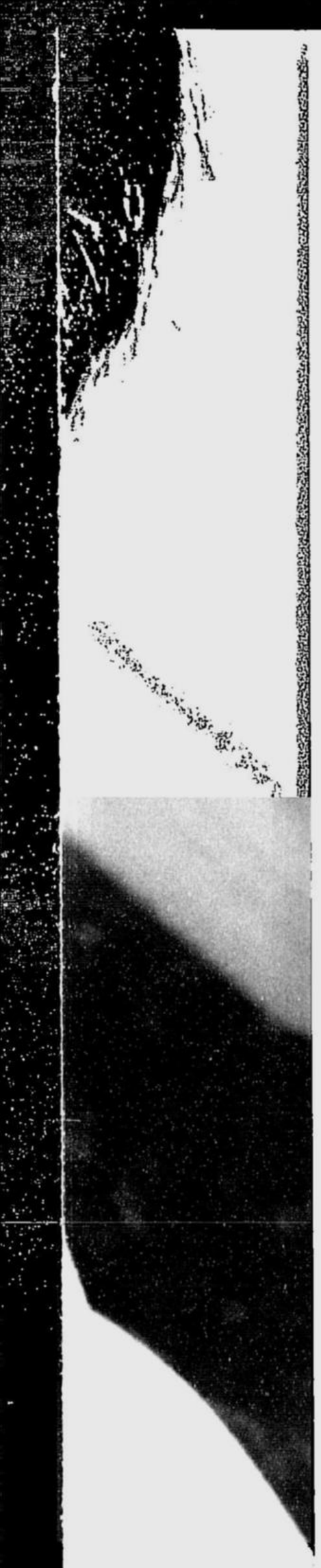
How the country's newest 'it' boy is handling the rollercoaster ride to stardom

GOOGLE Sam Milby, and 163,00 entries come up in 0.19 seconds. One of the entries is an extensive fan site where virtually everything about the former "Pinoy Big Brother" (PBB) housemate is posted, except what he just had for lunch. But trust bloggers- and his legion of fans, who call themselves Sam Buddies—to eventually figure that out.

Overnight, it seems, Sam has become the country's hottest heartthrob, his charmingly fractured Tagalog promoting yet another album, movie or television series, his boyish mug selling everything from jeans to cell phones to toothpaste and hamburger on the billboards of Edsa.

"It was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time," he says of his sudden fame. PBB had just lost a housemate and needed a replacement fast. Sam had just flown in from the US for a holiday with relatives in Bulacan, was doing commercial modelling on the side, and not much else.

"I didn't even know who Big Brother was and never watched the show in the States," he recalls. "All I know was that it was a contest with big prizes." And he needed the money. True, his family lives on a 12-hectare piece of land in Troy, Ohio, and they're not exactly poor. "But we're not rich either, and I'm supporting myself while I'm here," he reveals. "I did modelling, but they're small jobs. So I used to take the bus, the jeepney, or walked to save money. *Mahirap talaga.*"



That seems eons ago, instead of just March last year. Who'd ever think Samuel Lloyd Milby, born May 23, 1984 to an American entrepreneur and his Pinay wife, Elsie Lacia from Surigao del Sur, would become so famous?

Not Sam Milby, apparently. "Honestly, I didn't think I'd make it. I'm a negative thinker and my own worst critic. I've always wanted to be in showbiz, but it wasn't something I had planned on. I think it's a very risky business, with only one out of five million making it. It just kinda happened to be me."

But being famous isn't all that's cracked up to be, Sam muses. "I've always thought it would be cool to become famous, as in *grabeh! Sobrang saya!* But it's harder than I thought, and it has its ups and downs. It's not the perfect life, not what I expected, but at the same time, I wouldn't give it up for anything. It's what I want to do."

Staying famous can be tough business, he adds. "There's a lot of stress and pressure. Just sitting next to Diet (Ocampo) and Piolo (Pascual), that's too much pressure right there! I mean, these guys, they're so good at what they do and they've been doing this for years, while before Big Brother, I hadn't really done any acting or singing. I really can't be on the same level as them."

And try dealing with all the pressure with so little sleep, he adds. "I mean, like during the last five days, I probably had a total of seven hours' sleep. There's lots of work and tapings ...Of course I know that in any job, you have to work hard. And I'm really enjoying this job. But having no sleep—and no privacy—now, that's really hard."

The intrigues do not help any. "I know they're part of the job, creating controversies. It's part of being *sikat*. You get a lot of intrigues even if you've not done anything wrong. It's inevitable. But I draw the line where my family is concerned."

Fortunately, he says he's so busy he doesn't have time to read all the intrigues or controversies being written about him. "Honestly, you can ask my manager. I only had two days off since November last year: one for my birthday which I spent in a spa and watching a movie, and another with my family in the States."

Not that he's complaining. Fame has its perks, he acknowledges. "It has given me self-confidence, made me feel happier about myself." He adds: "I also love the feeling of being an influence, having people look up at me, especially the kids. If I can inspire them to do good, that's enough for me."

Of course, he admits, being a role model also means watching what he does in public. And that's why he has quit smoking. "I did it for myself and for people. I don't want to be a bad influence. Not that I have the time to act bad because I'm constantly working. Some people can go out and get drunk, but I don't even have the time to think about that."

In fact, if there's one thing he could wish for at this point when fame has brought him cash, cache and confidence, it would be: "Sleep!" he says, laughing softly. "Sleeeeep!" He adds: "I mean, I have a new house, it's just being finished, with the interiors and all the stuff. But I haven't been able to enjoy it. It's been one appointment after another." To keep awake, he takes "Centrum and coffee. They're my best friends right now."

But what happens next, when all this fame is gone? Is there life outside the spotlight? His tired eyes drooping, Sam Milby smiles enigmatically and says, "There is no life outside the spotlight. There is no life!" •

Dizzy and infamous

You won't believe what Madame Auring has to do to stay in the headlines

SOME people describe her as an icon, says Madam Auring, who claims that this London firm has named her, Imelda Marcos and sexy star Rosanna Roces as among "the five most famous women in Asia" in the 1990s.

Most others might have described the woman as infamous, however, for all the tabloid fodder they've heard about her: how she was almost gang-raped; how, at past 60, she got pregnant and miscarried; how she and former Jukebox King Victor Wood were once an item; how she had a sex video with her 23-year-old beau, and how she almost came to blows with fellow bombastic star Mystica, arch screen villainess Bella Flores and gay movie scribe Tita Swarding over national television.

Other folk would have blushed with shame at such indiscretions, but the Madame preens and says proudly: "Press release *ko lahat yan*!" Even the big stars are impressed, she adds in Filipino. And no, they're not gimmicks, she says. "*Natural na galing ng utak ko yan.* (They're natural products of my brilliant mind)."

But then again, you have to credit Aurea Sabalboro for her imagination, if not persistence. The high school drop-out recalls being a squatter, the eldest of six children of a barber and his exorcist wife, who would brave her father's ire to visit movie sets in hopes of landing a bit role.

"I really wanted to be famous," she confesses. But came audition time and she would lose her voice.

Once, she reveals, she fell off a cliff in Ugong, Pasig in her rush to get food. "Van de Leon, Lolita Rodriguez and Eddie Gutierrez picked me up," she name-drops. For P4.50 per shooting day, the woman who went by the screen name Aurea Aura did just about everything. "As a dancer, my signature piece was 'Fascination,'" she says.

With fame still out of reach at 23, Madame Auring married a draftsman and had four children by him, now aged 30 to 42. To make ends meet, she set up a beauty parlor and dabbled in fortune-telling, getting paid P5 for each session and packets of sugar and coffee.

Her biggest claim to fame, says the Madame, was correctly predicting Miss Spain Amparo Muñoz's win as Miss Universe of 1974, and Muhammad Ali's victory in the Thrilla in Manila bout with Joe Frazier.

Everything else came easy after that, she says. "I've reached all my dreams, traveled to London, the US and Canada three times, sent all my children through college, and found myself a boyfriend." Archie Mendoza, 23, was her former employee, she says, "but I loved him. I built him up. He's a singer." They intend to get married, she says, just as soon as her children learn to accept him. "They say he's only after my money, but what's important is that we've been together for 4 1/2 years now."

Just as important, of course, is being famous. "I'm really famous now," she says seriously. Everywhere she goes, people recognize her, she claims. In fact, "I can no longer ride a jeep or FX or LRT, nor eat in a *carinderia* or go shopping in Divisoria. And I can't not give a hand-out to a reporter. They might say I'm hard-up," she complains.

She's even learned to avoid parties, she adds. "*Agaw-eksena daw ako.* (They say I'm a scene-stealer.) But what can I do if people want to interview me? Is that my fault?"

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Corresponding character

Anderson Cooper's memoir "Dispatches From The Edge" (HarperCollins; available at Powerbooks, P1,575) reveals how the CNN anchor learned, from an early age, that adversity is never choosy. The deaths of his father and brother must have been almost unbearable, but the book really turns dramatic once Cooper decides, pretty much on his own, to provide frontline coverage from nether regions torn apart by war or calamity, from Somalia to Iraq to New Orleans. "Dispatches" is an account of Cooper's ascent to broadcast fame, as well as the wages of being an observer in some of mankind's worst trials. His tone is sincere if sentimental at times, but always articulate. The Yale-educated son of Gloria Vanderbilt makes it clear that he finds his calling extraordinary, exciting and exhausting. His insight on working in war zones explore not his fears and qualms but also the cruel facts of television Darwinism, be it in terms of employment or footage. The book is a case of watching the watcher, where the reader is left to ponder what it means to be a witness to such devastation—and become good at it, even famous for it. - Ruel S. De Vera

Blog topper

If you haven't read Connie Veneracion's online ruminations on everything from everyday questions to the political issues to the joys of Pinoy food, then it's about time you began reading what must be one of the country's best blogs. Veneracion is better known as The Sassy Lawyer (sassylawyer.com), and her poignant, pointed writing has been on Filipino blogwatchers' to-read lists for a while now. In fact, she now writes an op-ed column for a Metro daily, a crossover that reverses the usual process of print to page. But the pure, undiluted volume of Veneracion's writing is best sampled in its original form, and her blog is seamless brain food. It's updated regularly, and Veneracion adroitly switches from discussing constitutional matters to life as a working mom and her simple pleasures, such as reading and dining. Start with the main blog and check out her other blogs. Mostly, she likes asking questions, and tries her intellectual best to figure out the answers, much to her readers' delight and enlightenment. - **RSDV**

Star shopper

If you can't be a celebrity, who's to stop you from wearing their clothes? Although fame and fashion sense don't necessarily follow, some fashion plates do know where to shop. Young stars grab the tops, bottoms and what-nots at Topshop; Meryl Soriano has been spotted browsing accessories. Zsa Zsa Padilla has been seen striding out of Mango loaded with bags; with her svelte figure, she could very well be sharing clothes with daughter Karylle! Chic babes like Heart Evangelista and Anne Curtis favor the sexy tops and accessories of yet another bestselling Spanish brand, Zara. John Lloyd Cruz, that cutie with a sense of style, has been seen browsing the pricey shelves of European goodies at Homme et Femme. And of course, there's the legion of Bench endorsers, but their clothes probably get sent to them. But if you want to do it like a real pro, cart along your favorite stylist or makeup magician on a buying spree, like Kris Aquino did. With regular makeup artist Bambbi Fuentes, she hit the makeup counters of Rustan's and bought the latest products from every single line, spending a gazillion pesos in the process. But then again, when you've got her job, you need every peso's worth. – **ABH**

10 Steps to Making It Big From page 4

5. Turn gay. Nothing gives a flagging career a shot in the arm like the sudden revelation that you had been living a lie all those years, until the love that dare not speak its name could be silent no longer. Then, preferably, a suitably flamboyant and dramatic "outing," like Rustom Padilla's on-cam revelation. (Hey, we knew it all along, but it was still compelling, no?), or a slightly less flamboyant one like Aiza Seguerra's (these days it's not enough to be a talented songwriter, you need to be a talented lesbian songwriter to cut it in the music biz).

6. I fought the law, and the law won. If you can't make it in the entertainment section, try making the front page. Robin Padilla used to do this all the time before he found Allah, but gun toting isn't the only way to go. Figure in a brawl. Get in a car crash. Get busted for drugs or soliciting in a hotel lobby. Bounce a few checks, even. But make sure the cameras are rolling.

7. If you have to go down, go all the way down . People have a morbid fascination with the aftermath of fame, and the greater the heights, the more catastrophic the fall. Recently, '70s torch singer Didith Reyes returned from oblivion when she appeared on the news, jaw swollen like a ripe papaya, apparently a victim of wife battery. TV midget Mahal was also on the news pleading for a gig, any gig, to rescue her from the brink of poverty.

8. Live fast, die young, leave a good-looking corpse. Okay, admittedly this is a little extreme, but if you don't stick around long enough to be forgotten, you actually up your chances of staying famous. Nobody remembers much of what Rico Yan did, for instance, except that he was once Claudine Barretto's boyfriend. Claudia Zobel is better remembered for her death in horrific car crash than for any of the bold films she did, and the same could be true for starlet Halina Perez. Soap opera star Julie Vega's early death eerily resembled a kind of saintly martyrdom, complete with miraculous signs and portents (at least, according to her fans). For pure morbid fascination, however, nothing beats "Miracle of Love," a film produced by and starring Gabby Concepcion in the early '80s co-starring non-actress Roxanne Abad Santos, who was dying of leukemia in real life. She died before the premiere, giving the movie the kind of publicity that money can't buy.

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Corresponding character

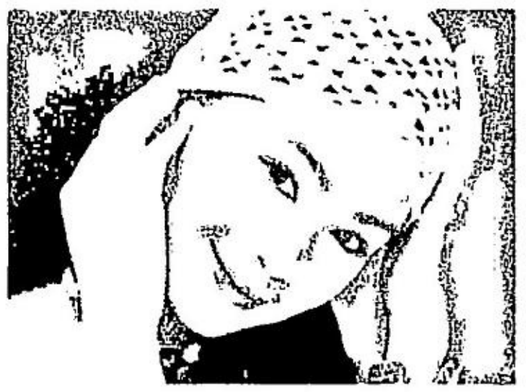
Anderson Cooper's memoir "Dispatches From The Edge" (HarperCollins; available at Powerbooks, P1,575) reveals how the CNN anchor learned, from an early age, that adversity is never choosy. The deaths of his father and brother must have been almost unbearable, but the book really turns dramatic once Cooper decides, pretty much on his own, to provide frontline coverage from nether regions torn apart by war or calamity, from Somalia to Iraq to New Orleans. "Dispatches" is an account of Cooper's ascent to broadcast fame, as well as the wages of being an observer in some of mankind's worst trials. His tone is sincere if sentimental at times, but always articulate. The Yale-educated son of Gloria Vanderbilt makes it clear that he finds his calling extraordinary, exciting and exhausting. His insight on working in war zones explore not his fears and qualms but also the cruel facts of television Darwinism, be it in terms of employment or footage. The book is a case of watching the watcher, where the reader is left to ponder what it means to be a witness to such devastation—and become good at it, even famous for it. - Ruel S. De Vera

Blog topper

If you haven't read Connie Veneracion's online ruminations on everything from everyday questions to the political issues to the joys of Pinoy food, then it's about time you began reading what must be one of the country's best blogs. Veneracion is better known as The Sassy Lawyer (sassylawyer.com), and her poignant, pointed writing has been on Filipino blogwatchers' to-read lists for a while now. In fact, she now writes an op-ed column for a Metro daily, a crossover that reverses the usual process of print to page. But the pure, undiluted volume of Veneracion's writing is best sampled in its original form, and her blog is seamless brain food. It's updated regularly, and Veneracion adroitly switches from discussing constitutional matters to life as a working mom and her simple pleasures, such as reading and dining. Start with the main blog and check out her other blogs. Mostly, she likes asking questions, and tries her intellectual best to figure out the answers, much to her readers' delight and enlightenment. - **RSDV**

Star shopper

If you can't be a celebrity, who's to stop you from wearing their clothes? Although fame and fashion sense don't necessarily follow, some fashion plates do know where to shop. Young stars grab the tops, bottoms and what-nots at Topshop; Meryl Soriano has been spotted browsing accessories. Zsa Zsa Padilla has been seen striding out of Mango loaded with bags; with her svelte figure, she could very well be sharing clothes with daughter Karylle! Chic babes like Heart Evangelista and Anne Curtis favor the sexy tops and accessories of yet another bestselling Spanish brand, Zara. John Lloyd Cruz, that cutie with a sense of style, has been seen browsing the pricey shelves of European goodies at Homme et Femme. And of course, there's the legion of Bench endorsers, but their clothes probably get sent to them. But if you want to do it like a real pro, cart along your favorite stylist or makeup magician on a buying spree, like Kris Aquino did. With regular makeup artist Bambbi Fuentes, she hit the makeup counters of Rustan's and bought the latest products from every single line, spending a gazillion pesos in the process. But then again, when you've got her job, you need every peso's worth. – ABH



10 Steps to Making It Big From page 4

5. Turn gay. Nothing gives a flagging career a shot in the arm like the sudden revelation that you had been living a lie all those years, until the love that dare not speak its name could be silent no longer. Then, preferably, a suitably flamboyant and dramatic "outing," like Rustom Padilla's on-cam revelation. (Hey, we knew it all along, but it was still compelling, no?), or a slightly less flamboyant one like Aiza Seguerra's (these days it's not enough to be a talented songwriter, you need to be a talented lesbian songwriter to cut it in the music biz).

6. I fought the law, and the law won. If you can't make it in the entertainment section, try making the front page. Robin Padilla used to do this all the time before he found Allah, but gun toting isn't the only way to go. Figure in a brawl. Get in a car crash. Get busted for drugs or soliciting in a hotel lobby. Bounce a few checks, even. But make sure the cameras are rolling.

7. If you have to go down, go all the way down . People have a morbid fascination with the aftermath of fame, and the greater the heights, the more catastrophic the fall. Recently, '70s torch singer Didith Reyes returned from oblivion when she appeared on the news, jaw swollen like a ripe papaya, apparently a victim of wife battery. TV midget Mahal was also on the news pleading for a gig, any gig, to rescue her from the brink of poverty.

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The worst songs of all time

From the sappy to the plain heinous, here's our resident music critic's picks

By Eric S. Caruncho

AN American poll recently voted Starship's "We Built This City" as the Worst Song of All Time.

This only goes to show how limited some people's horizons are: Although admittedly lousy, "We Built This City" isn't even in the running in my book (in fact, Rainbow's "Temple of the King" and Europe's "The Final Countdown" trump it on all counts.)

CNN hit closer to home when it nominated Bobby Goldsboro's 1969 chart-topper "Honey" for the position ("See the tree how big it's grown, but friend it hasn't been too long, it wasn't there..."). All of the hallmarks of a truly bad song are there: sappy sentimentality, hokey emotion, musical clichés.

Of course, "bad" is as highly subjective as "good." Novelty songs, for instance, are seldom good, but they're seldom truly bad either, because they aim too low to count. The Sexbomb Girls' "The Spaghetti Song", or Sandara Park's "In Or Out," while annoyingly stupid, are not bad enough. To be truly bad, a song has to aim high, and be so ridiculously off the mark as to result in a classic piece of cheese.

Simple Plan's "Perfect," for instance, is aiming for something akin to this generation's "Father and Son," a plea for intergenerational understanding, as it were. But the singer's atonal whining sabotages the song's intent, and sends me reaching for the earplugs every time.

But for true, unamalgamated heinousness that has stood the test of time, nothing beats the heavy rotation playlist of some radio stations, where one can still catch many of these immortal stinkers:

Charlene Duncan, "I've Never Been To Me" - The singer has been "undressed by kings and seen some things that a woman ain't supposed to see," but still thinks the wife and mother she's talking to got the better deal, as she explains ad nauseam in that intolerable, oft-quoted spoken bridge.

Dan Hill, "Sometimes When We Touch" ("Sometimes when we touch, the honesty's too much, and I have to close my eyes and hide.") - So do I, actually, whenever I hear this one. Bill Murray's parody of same was one of the funniest moments on "Saturday Night Live" ever.

Air Supply, "Two Less Lonely People In The World" - Actually, anything in Air Supply's "Greatest Hits" would do just as well: "All Out Of Love," "Every Woman In The World," "Here I Am (Just When I Thought I Was Over You)," "The One That You Love," "Just As I Am," "Even The Nights Are Better." At least they're *consistent*.

Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney, "Ebony and Ivory" - Not even the presence of two musical geniuses could rescue this plea for racial harmony.

Mary MacGregor, "This Girl Has Turned Into A Woman," narrowly beating out MacGregor's other hit, "Torn Between Two Lovers"

Dan Fogelberg, "Longer"

Rupert Holmes, "Terminal"

Anne Murray, "You Needed Me"

Styx, "Mr. Roboto"

Dennis de Young, "Desert Moon"

Bobby Vinton, "Dick and Jane" ("Look Dick look, see pretty Jane, I'm gonna marry her someday.") But Jane marries someone else, and one day the singer gets "a letter that she has passed away/So one last time I'll kiss her, by the flowers where she'll lay.") •

Die hard From page 7

As a former researcher, production assistant and assistant director for various shows on GMA, Zobel had access to the show "S.O.P." She once accompanied her aunt and a friend to the noontime weekend variety show. Little did she know that Hale was on the lineup of performers.

When she heard the first bars of "The Day You Said Goodnight," her face turned red, her heart almost burst from the speed of her heartbeat, and she literally cried. "I have so much respect for their music," she gushes.

Perhaps the most outrageous thing she's ever done was to go to Music One and Odyssey every single day for three months ("No fail!") to check if they already carried the then much-awaited first album of Up Dharma Down.

Zobel's mom doesn't mind that her daughter is a fan of bands. Well, not anymore. Back when Zobel was an Eraserheads fan, her mom thought bands were "evil." Of course, Zobel also gets infatuated with band members. Her current crush is the drummer of one band who used to tell her that she looked like the presidential daughter, and promptly christened her "Luli." Thus, Zobel's e-mail address has the letters L-U-L-I in it. Now, everybody calls her by that name.

"Luli," the photographer and I were more than two hours early for the actual gig of Hale at Café Lupe in Guadalupe, Makati City. Before we sat down with the charming and amiable Hale vocalist Champ Lui-Pio, he gave Zobel a warm hug. And when we told him about the topic of this story, he was surprised. "Fan?" Champ said, "She's not even a fan. She's a friend!"

-Claire Agbayani

The Sports Fan

WITH the flick of a switch, Isagani "Aga" Jose can turn from a pensive professional into a fiery fan.

"It's like having a split personality," admits Jose (cheering his hero, at right), a long-time supporter of Fil-Am Asi Taulava and the Talk 'N Text in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

As the founder of Asi's Circle of Friends, a nationwide fans club of the behemoth 6-foot-8 center, Jose has gotten used to all the teasing.

"I just laugh it off," he says. "The exhilarating experience I get from the PBA cannot be paid for by any amount. So they can say whatever they want, I'm not doing anything immoral or illegal."

The suppressed giggles are not just because Jose, a Philosophy teacher, is a self-confessed groupie at 52.

"Asi is a nice person, he's just misinterpreted," claims Jose. "There are impressions that he's a windbag, *na mayabang* (that he's arrogant). But perception is different from the truth. His heart goes with his size."

Like most fanatics, Jose and his loyal club members have developed a close relationship with their hoop idol—so any Taulava attack is a personal attack.

"One time, Talk N Text was losing and there was this group of fans who kept on laughing. I really lost my composure and ran after them. *Naghampasan lang naman kami ng payong* (We hit each other with umbrellas). We were brought to the nearest police station in Araneta. I learned my lesson," recalls Jose.

Composure has been at the top of his mind since then, for Jose also teaches English and Values Education in STI Bulacan. "My habit of watching the PBA is in my veins."

– Jasmine W. Payo

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

SUDOKU

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

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4	5	3	2	6	7	8	1	9
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Managing Editor: **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor: **Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer: **Eric S. Caruncho**
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The Star Makers

From page 7

These views are shared by Ida Henares, head of rival network GMA's Talent Center for the last four years. With husband Ronnie Henares, she started Primeline Inc. over 20 years ago, which managed talents such as Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Janno Gibbs and Zsazsa Padilla. "In hindsight, when you look at fame, it's a combination of many things. But what's very important is the connection of the artist with the audience. No matter how beautiful you are, if you have no connection with the audience, it's not going to happen for you."

And what mentality should one have to get this connection going? "Showbiz is about other people; it isn't just for you," Henares says. "You are here to please others; you are here for their entertainment, for their pleasure."

Does creating pleasure for the viewers also have to do with physical attractiveness? Absolutely. "Looks, of course, are very essential, especially nowadays. We've gotten into 2006, and we're extremely vain. We put such a premium on looking good, but it's part of what you do, and you owe it to the public to look good. Otherwise, what are you going to endorse?"

A celebrity is a person who works hard all of their life to become well known, and then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized.

- Fred A. Allen

If there is one person who can boast of being as well-known in front of the camera as he is behind it, it's Boy Abunda. Although the viewing public recognizes him more as a host of shows like "The Buzz" and "Private Conversations," he is also proprietor of Backroom, a talent agency started in 1990, whose very first talent was singer/actor Ariel Rivera. Backroom now has other artists under its roof, such as Keanna Reeves, Bianca Gonzalez and Mariel Rodriguez. Abunda is also one of the first personalities whose career has thrived despite his being openly homosexual.

"I didn't rhapsodize my journey, but a lot of things were happening around me. There were TV commercials, I started to do other things, I started to host awards nights, pageants—these were early signs of 'Hey, I'm starting to get noticed.' It became a very complex thing when people started asking me to endorse things because I'm openly gay, and at a certain point in my career I didn't think I was going to endorse mainstream products, because I sensed a certain conservatism."

Even Abunda doesn't have an answer when asked what makes people famous. "There is no formula in celebrity making," he says emphatically. "You can be or play a character that the audience relates to, or you can be a character that is so totally out of this world that you can no longer be ignored."

To what extent, then, celebrity-hood?

"According to the Pygmalion Principle," explains Abunda, "fame and celebrity can be manufactured. With the right machinery, somebody can actually be turned into someone famous. I agree and disagree. Yes, you can make someone famous, but for how long—that is a different story."

Does this also apply to gender preferences? "If I have a talent who is gay, and if he is leading man material, I will advise him not to openly admit he's gay. But I will also tell him, 'Please, in real life, be as happy as you are.' We are victims of a system that will not take a homosexual as a leading man, but what else can I do? I can also tell him, 'Don't be a leading man, there are other things you can do,' because I will not encourage my talent to lie."

Henares proves to be as supportive. "I can see (my talents) through all their physical makeovers if I have to, but only if they're absolutely necessary," says Henares. One of her talents, singer Reeza Navales, one of the winners of the 2005 World Championship of Performing Arts, asked for an extreme makeover (several operations at once) "to make her feel and look more beautiful," Henares recounts. "I will also counsel my talents and get to know them better so I can enhance their image, not just on the outside but on the inside. I am a staunch believer in good publicity, good image and good activity."

Mr. M admits that starting off stars with a love team (real or not) is one route to celebrityhood. "I don't know why, it's always easier to 'sell' a couple rather than an individual, especially when you're trying to promote a new movie or TV show." Still, you need the right chemistry and the loyalty of fans to make it work, he adds. "If the couple doesn't end up together or isn't paired together, the fans get really upset. But even just the chemistry between the two can be magic, so it just works."

Apparently, even among the gods, fame and its parameters remain intangible -which makes it just that more desirable. As philosopher Blaise Pascal so adequately put it, "The charm of fame is so great that we like every object to which it is attached—even death." •

Fame = Carabaos + chickens + vegetables

Johnny Manahan: "The craziest things are done by the parents of would-be stars. I've had parents gift me with chickens and vegetables on a weekly basis. I also had a weekly ration of sugpo and suha from some parents. Could I be bribed? Of course—but only if their kids have talent!"

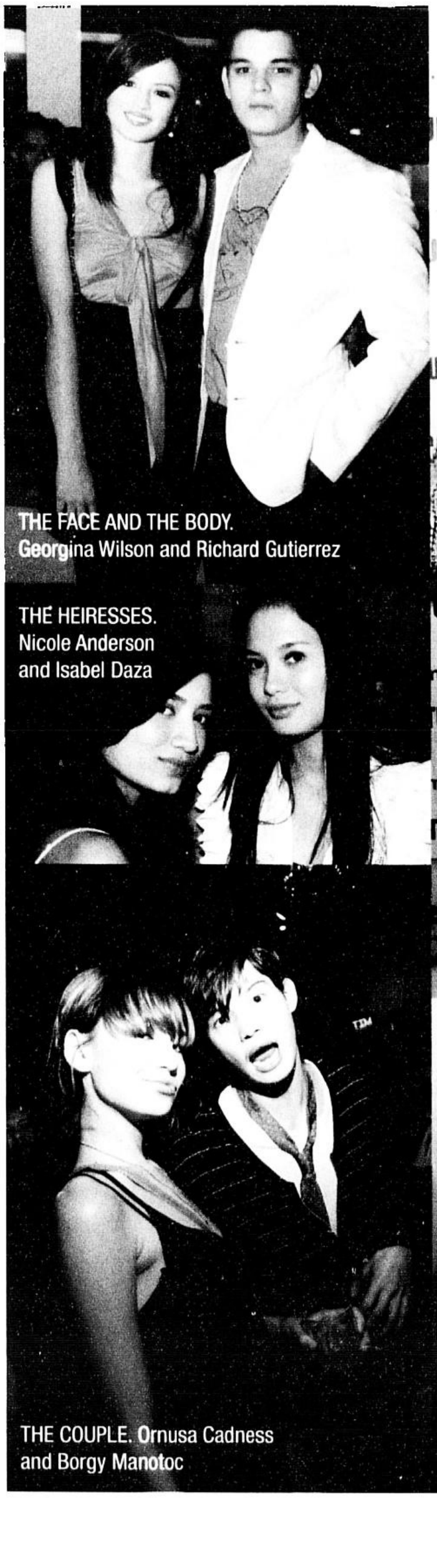
Boy Abunda: "I was one of the judges in 'Star Circle Quest,' and I was asking this young girl questions—why do you want to be famous, blah blah. Then I asked where she was from, and how she was able to come to Manila. She said in Filipino, 'We sold our house, our two carabaos and everything we had in the province so I could come here.' I was gaping in disbelief!"

Fame sightings

"Baby, look at me,
and tell me what you see..."

By Tim Yap

At the launch of my limited edition watch for ODM, time stood still for the famous. Cameras flashed, heads turned. These famous people go beyond just the glare of the spotlight, each representing a new breed of influencers out to use their names to shape society, push advocacy, and ensure that their generation is never forgotten.



THE FACE AND THE BODY.
Georgina Wilson and Richard Gutierrez

THE HEIRESSES.
Nicole Anderson
and Isabel Daza

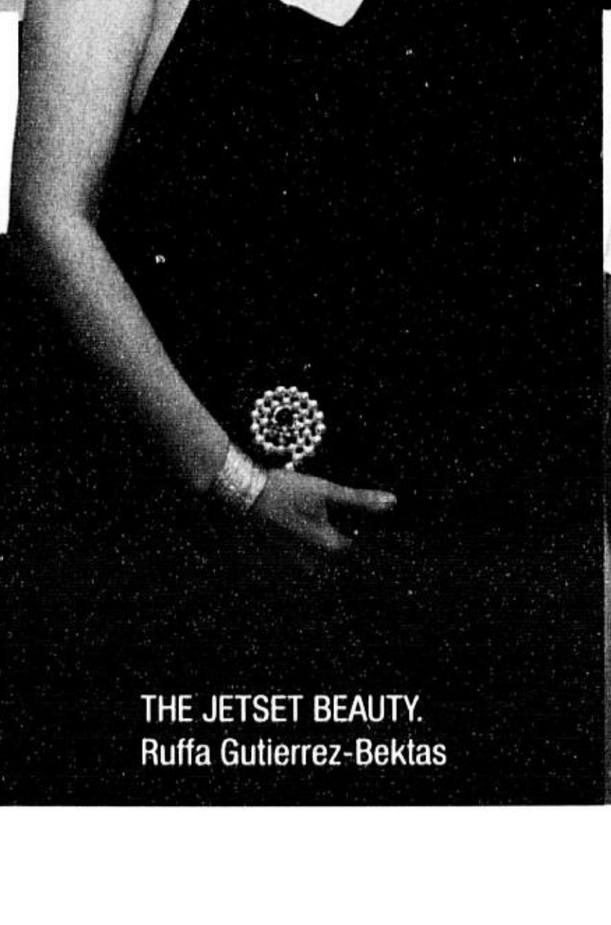
THE COUPLE. Ornusa Cadness
and Borgy Manotoc

THE CONTROVERSY
MAGNET. Gretchen
Barretto

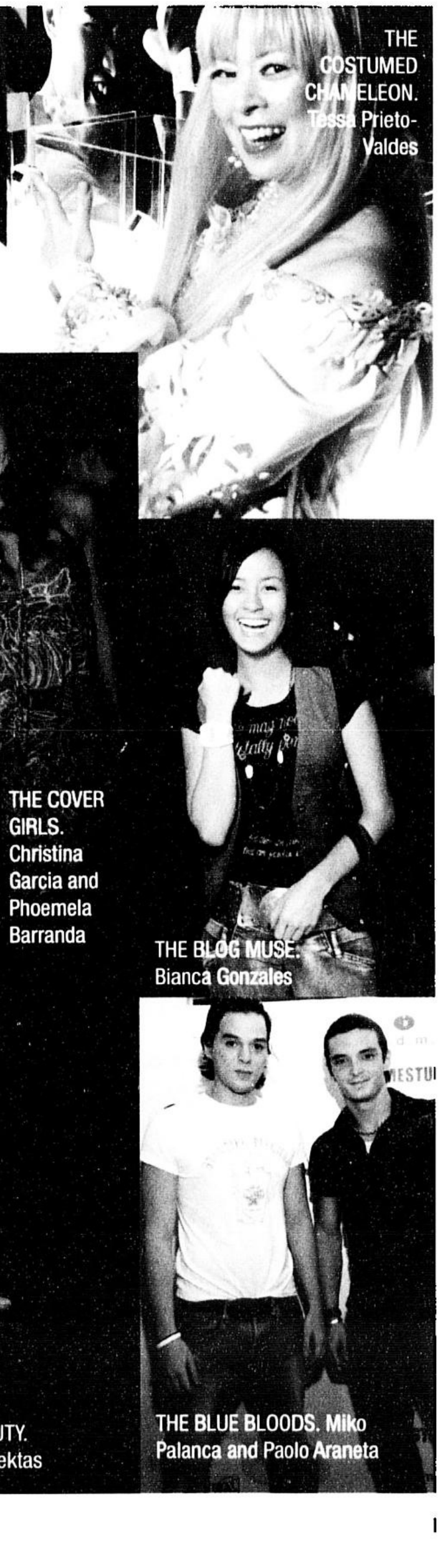
THE ADVOCATES. Tim Yap
and Bea Zobel, Jr.

THE THESPIAN.
Epi Quizon

THE COVER
GIRLS.
Christina
Garcia and
Phoemela
Barranda



THE JETSET BEAUTY.
Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas



THE
COSTUMED
CHAMELEON.
Tessa Prieto-
Valdes

THE BLOG MUSE.
Bianca Gonzales

THE BLUE BLOODS. Miko
Palanca and Paolo Araneta

She Didith Her Way

Way before Janet Jackson's Superbowl boob-oo, Seventies torch singer Didith Reyes caused a local sensation when one of her golden globes escaped the flimsy confines of her low-cut evening gown while she was singing her hit, "*Bakit Ako Mahihiya?*" at the Famas Awards. The accident gave her singing career a tremendous boost, and when she came home with the Gold Prize from the 1977 Tokyo Music Festival, she was greeted by full-page ads reading "Congratulations, You Didith!", upstaging Donna Summer, who was in town at the time. Sadly, Didith's long absence from the spotlight was broken by recent news that she is apparently a victim of wife battery.

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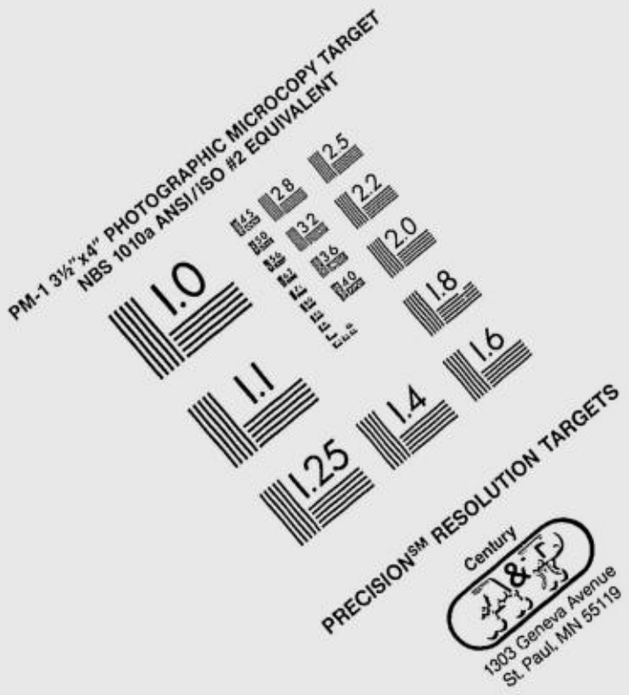

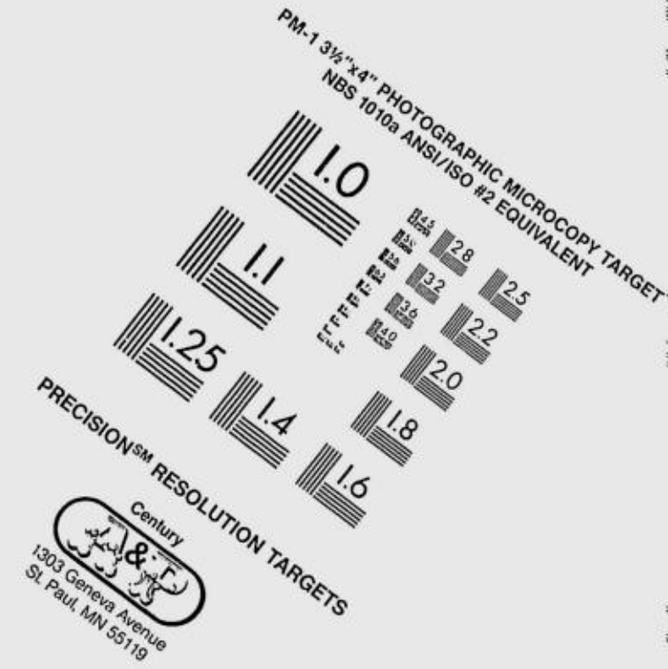

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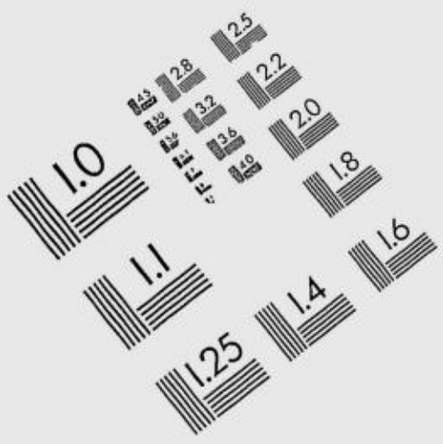

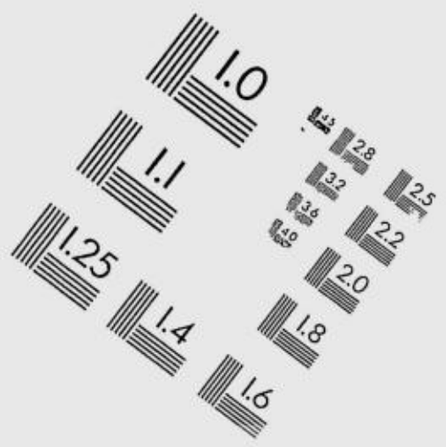

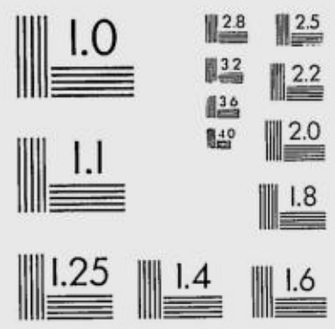

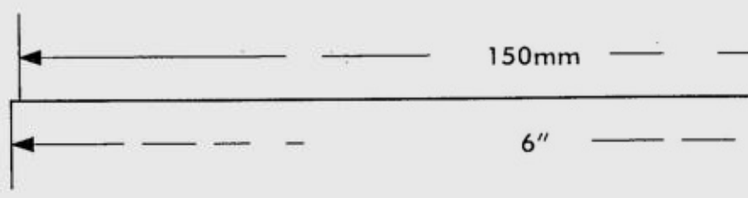

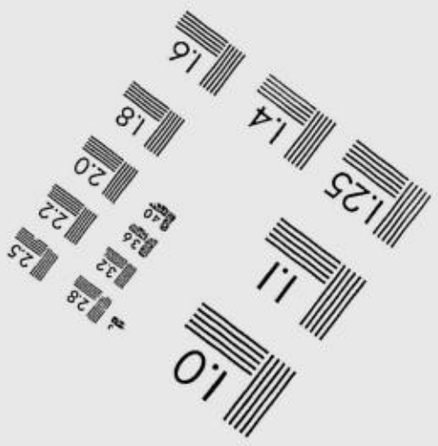

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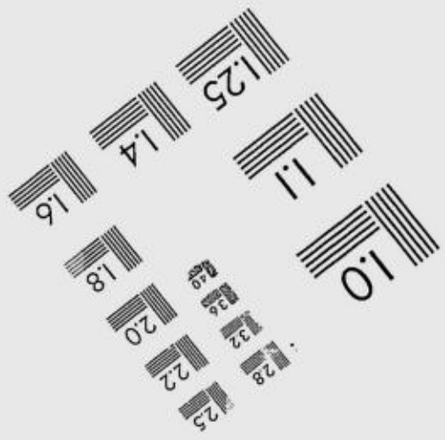

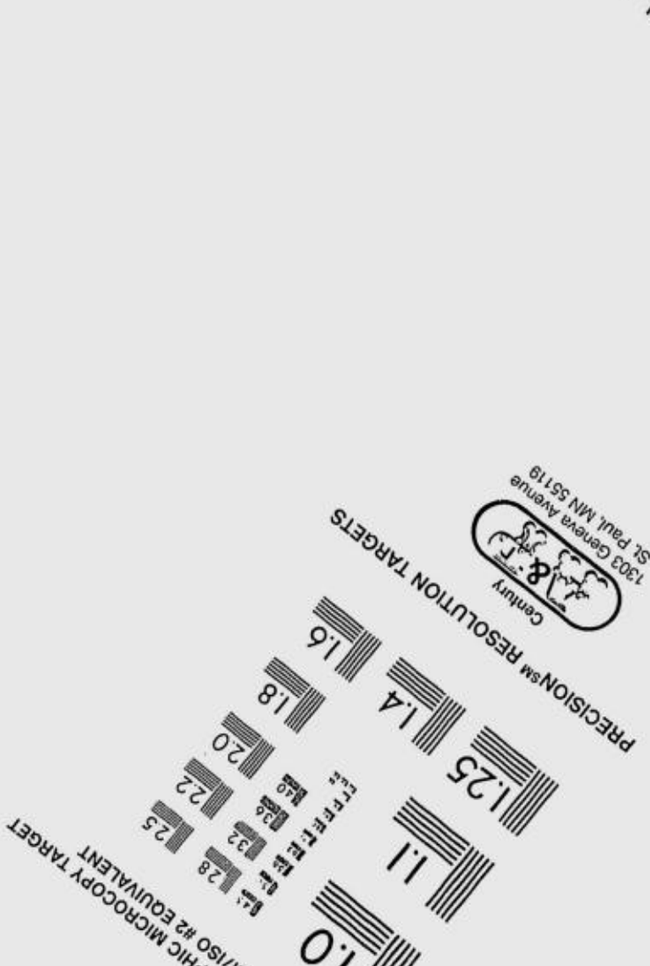

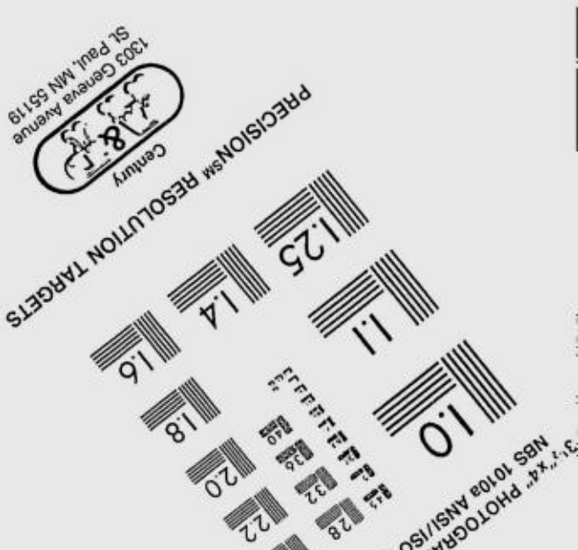

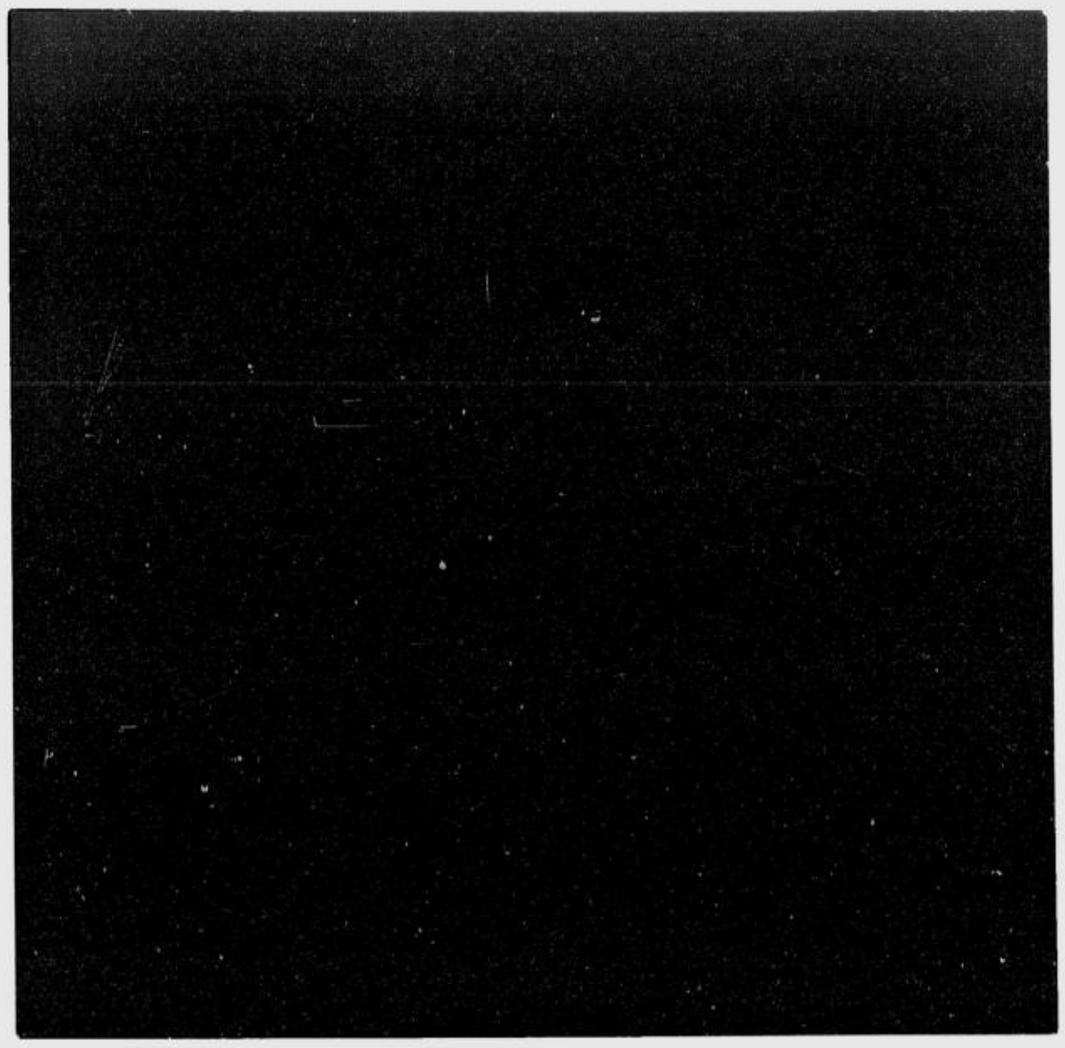

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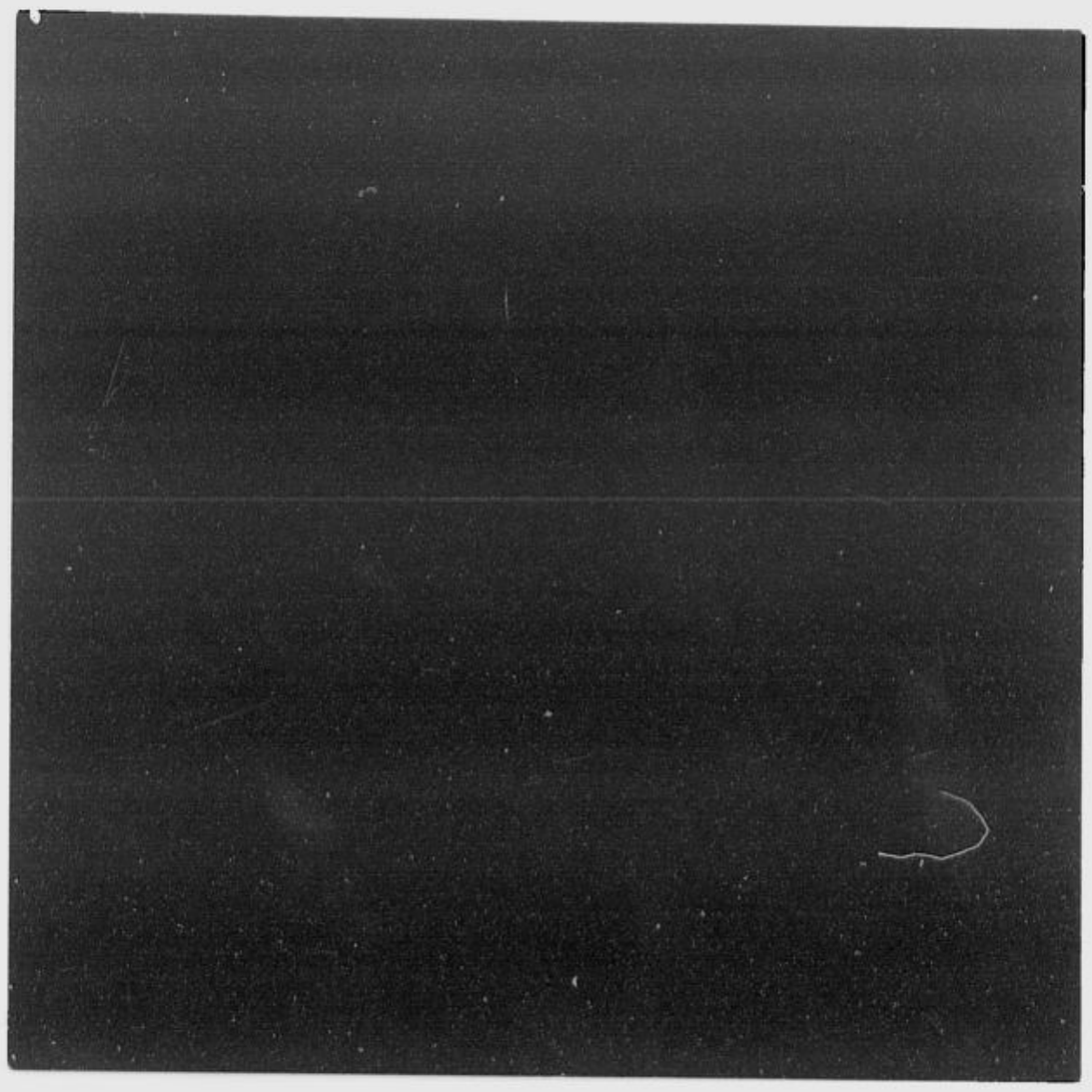

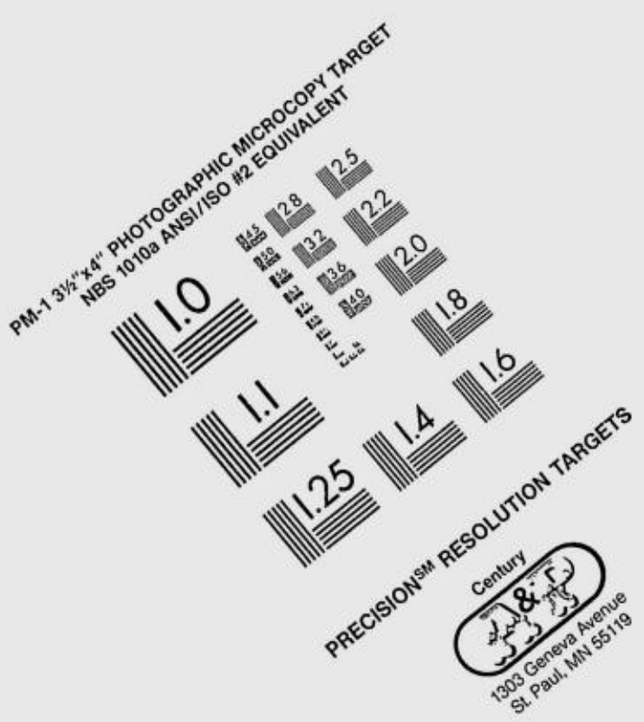

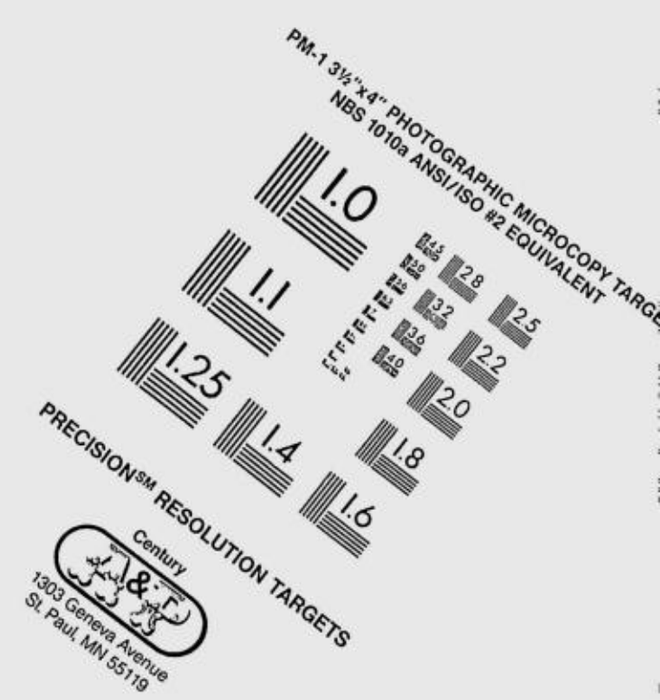

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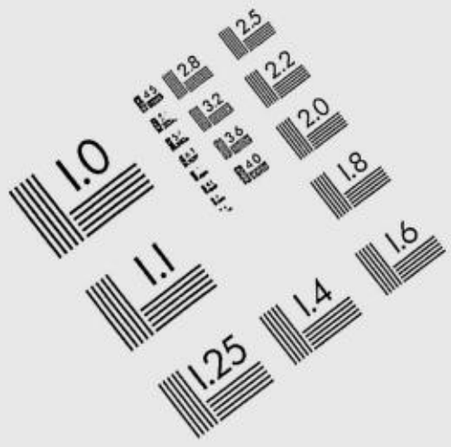

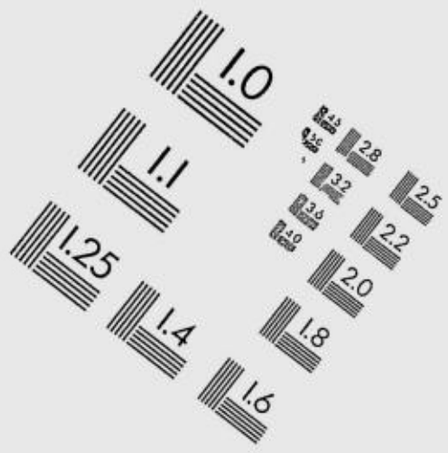

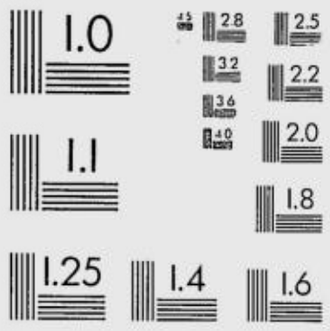

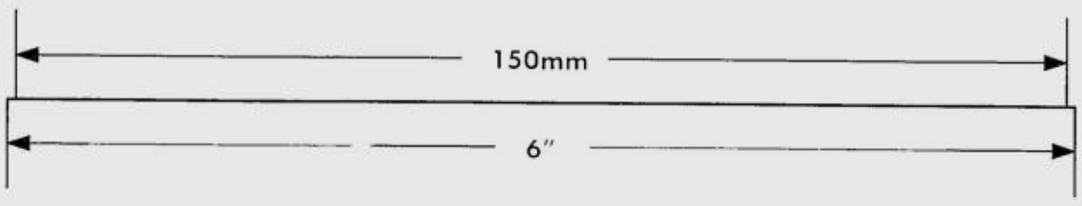

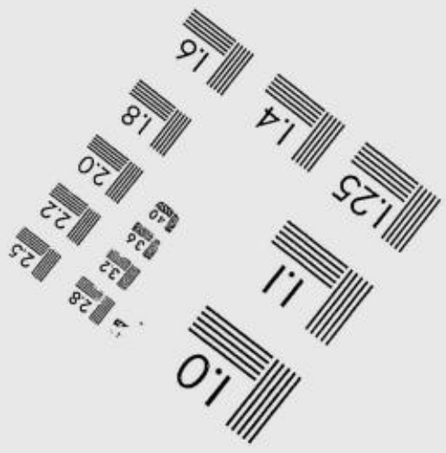

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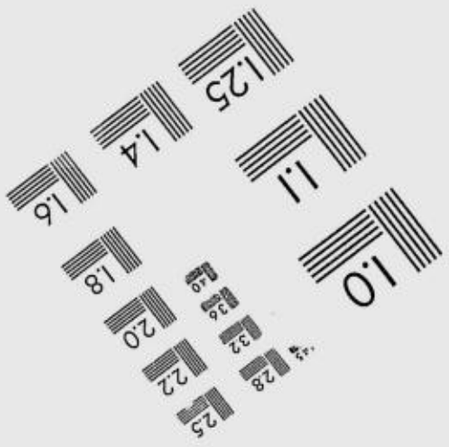
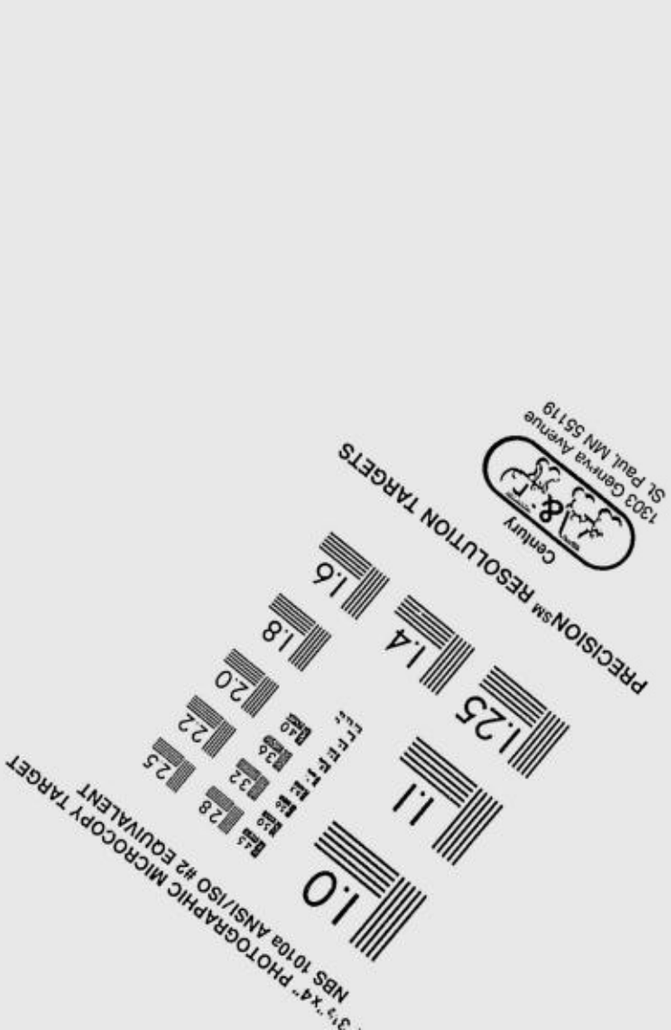
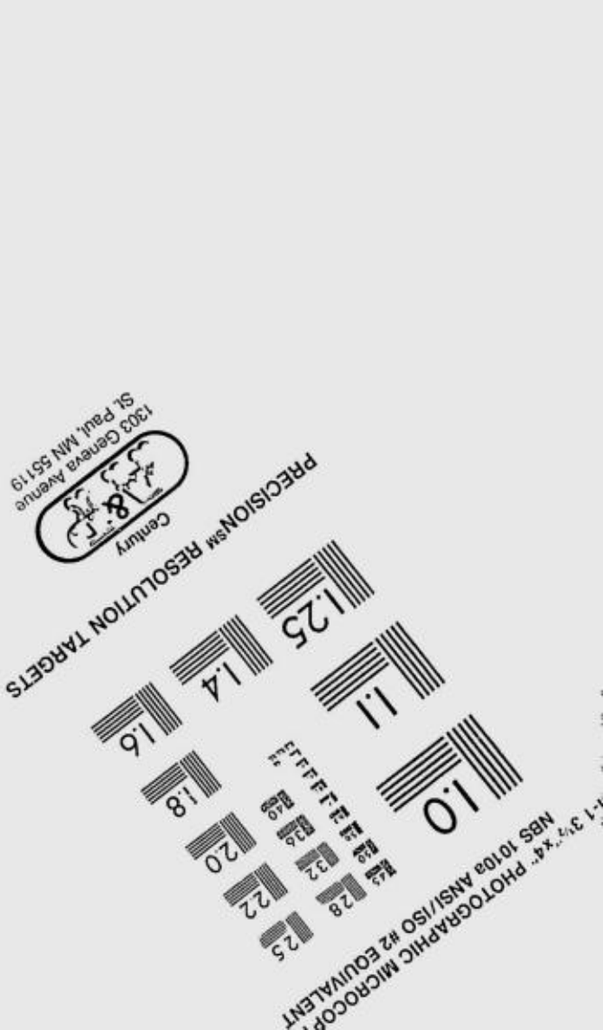






ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Famas splinter group to give out Maria Clara awards

SPORTS / A30

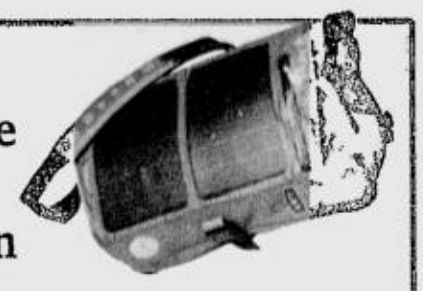
9th-inning homer sends Detroit Tigers to World Series

LIFESTYLE / D1

Lea Salonga performs for traumatized kids

INFOTECH / B8

A slice of Mobile Philippines' technology Eden



Telenovelas win TV hearts across globe

CANNES, FRANCE—True love is making a comeback on the television screen, winning the hearts of audiences around the globe.

It's also making big bucks for some of the world's leading program

TELENOVELAS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 16, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 310 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Muslim scholars cite Pope's factual errors

PARIS—SENIOR ISLAMIC SCHOLARS, TAKING up Pope Benedict's call for a frank dialogue, have written him an open letter listing factual errors in his recent speech on Islam that sparked protests across the Muslim world.

The 38 experts, including grand muftis from the Muslim world and scholars based in Britain and the United States, said they accepted the

MUSLIM/ A6

Go win-win, court urged on test leak

Labor chief calls for conciliatory approach

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christine O. Avendaño

ENTRUSTED WITH THE task of defusing a controversy affecting thousands of aspiring new nurses, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion yesterday called for a "win-win" solution and said the Court of Appeals could do its bit by promoting a "conciliatory approach" to the problem.

Brion told the INQUIRER that his plan for resolving the nursing examination leakage issue—which would involve a meeting of the various stakeholders—had the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Brion said he would write the Court of Appeals today to formally broach his plan.

But closing the book on the emotionally charged leakage issue would not mean that the Professional Regulation Commission was in the clear, Brion indicated.

He said the PRC would still be investigated to determine whether its officials had any administrative liability for the leakage.

But he added such a probe would come after the resolution of the leakage controversy and after the next nursing licensure examination in December.

"This (the PRC) is not a top priority at the moment," Brion said in a phone interview.

What concerns the government at present is putting closure to a scandal that

GO WIN-WIN/ A18

BANGLADESHI Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus is hugged by his daughter Dina after receiving news of his award. The "banker to the poor" expressed his "pride" at winning for Bangladesh and the recognition it has brought his microcredit bank. AFP

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE

'It's possible to eradicate poverty'

CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH—NOBEL Peace laureate and microcredit pioneer Muhammad Yunus on Sunday vowed to make poverty history as he unveiled new plans to transform the fortunes of Bangladesh's poor.

"I think it's quite possible to eradicate poverty from this world. I think we can halve the poverty level in Bangladesh by 2015. And in the next 15 years we can rid this land of it," Yunus said after he was named the country's first ever Nobel winner.

Yunus and his Grameen Bank, which offers tiny loans to very poor borrowers to help them become self-employed, were jointly awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

The bank, which targets women because it believes they are better than men at managing family finances, has given small loans to more than 6.6 million people since its inception in 1976.

"You change the environment, and we will lift thousands and millions of people out of poverty. They don't need any grant to change their life," said Yunus, who is known as the poor's banker.

"People have this power in them. You remove the lid of the hidden power and poor people will automatically change their lives," he added.

Yunus has unveiled a string of new initiatives—including health insurance for the poor, as well as information technology, solar energy and organic fertilizer projects.

IT'S POSSIBLE/ A19

$42 loan changed poor woman's life

DHAKA, BANGLADESH—A TINY Grameen Bank loan to buy a cow was a lifeline for 32-year-old Margina who was once so poor she could not afford to eat. She now runs a successful rice business.

Like millions of others, Margina saw her life transformed through a 3,000 taka ($42) loan from the Grameen Bank founded by Muhammad Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for lifting millions out of poverty through his pioneering concept of microcredit.

"When I first started borrowing from Grameen Bank 12 years ago, I was very

$42 LOAN/ A19

Muslims start 10-night peace vigil as blast rocks Jolo

By Nash B. Maulana and Ed General
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—CHANTING THE word "peace" at least 80 times, Muslims yesterday launched a 10-night prayer vigil, even as a bomb explosion rocked a police camp in Jolo, wounding three people.

The Muslims' call for peace also came as police, in a separate incident yesterday, defused a homemade bomb found three hours before it was timed to explode near a public market in Pagadian City.

The Jolo blast occurred at 7 p.m. in an alley between the Peace Keepers Inn and the Western Mindanao Command Hospital, both inside the Philippine National Police's Camp Asturias.

Authorities have placed some areas of Mindanao under "extreme critical alert"—the highest of a four-step public terror warning system—after three bombings last week, including a powerful blast that killed six people and wounded about 30 others late Tuesday during a fiesta in Makilala town in North Cotabato.

Ustadz (The Learned) Esmael Ebrahim, a member of the Assembly of Philippine Da'rul Ifta (House of Opinion), said the nightlong prayers signified the Muslims' aspirations for peace and for the blessings of Allah.

The prayer vigil is part of the Muslims' observance of Ramadan, the ninth in the 12-month lunar Hijrah calendar, when they fast from dawn to sunset.

In their Friday sermons, the muftis—or

MUSLIMS/ A6

RICARDO de los Santos: One of the students at the special computer school. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ILOILO MASS BURIAL
Priests bless the coffins during the mass burial of 12 people who died when a jeepney fell off an overflow bridge into the Tangyan River in Igbaras, Iloilo, on Oct. 2. *(Story on Page A12.)* ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Security Council OKs sanctions on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN SECURITY Council has voted unanimously to impose strict sanctions on North Korea for its reported nuclear test, overcoming objections from Russia and China by explicitly excluding the threat of military force.

But North Korea's neighbors were divided over measures that were meant to punish the communist regime, with Japan and Australia preparing harsher moves, South Korea mum on details and China refusing certain actions.

The divergent response foreshadows what analysts predict will be a rocky road toward enforcing the global crackdown on Pyongyang following what it said was North Korea's first-ever atomic bomb test last week.

Saturday's resolution, drafted by the United States, clears the way for the toughest international action against North Korea since the end of the Korean War.

Primarily, it bars the sale or transfer of materials that could be used to make nuclear, biological and chemical weapons or ballistic missiles, and it bans international travel and freezes the overseas assets of people associated with the North's programs.

In its most debated clause, the resolution authorizes all countries to inspect cargo going in and out of North Korea to detect illicit weapons.

That power was the sticking point in days of what the Russian ambassador called "tense negotiations" with China and Russia that continued up until just minutes before the final vote early Saturday afternoon.

Less than an hour after joining in the council vote to approve the resolution, the Chinese ambas-

SECURITY/ A17

Blind techies study musical transcription

By Volt Contreras

A BLIND PERSON CAN NOW DO "My Way" his way.

The next time you sing along to a videoke track or download a cell phone ring tone, you may be enjoying the product of techie talents who cannot even see.

Four such individuals are currently studying "musical transcription" at a special computer school which, for over a decade now, has placed some 350 visually impaired Filipinos in highly competitive jobs that even the sighted may find daunting.

It is the latest course offering from Atriev, a nonprofit organization that has produced the country's first blind computer programmer, its first blind recruitment specialist, and Asia's first blind medical transcriptionist.

Atriev stands for Adaptive Tech-

BLIND/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/15/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Raps poised over 2 Indons in bombings

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE IS SET TO file murder charges against two Indonesian leaders of the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah for the spate of bombings last week in Mindanao that left eight people dead and several dozen wounded.

Named in the police complaint were Indonesians Dulmatin and Umar Patek. To be charged with them are Bashir Usman, reportedly a nephew of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chair Hashim Salamat, and six unnamed guerrillas.

Two counts of murder and multiple frustrated murder will be brought against the nine for the explosion on Tuesday in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, where two people died and two others were wounded, according to Chief Supt. German Doria, PNP Region 12 commander.

Similar charges will be filed against them for the bombing in Makilala, North Cotabato, where six people were killed and 17 others were injured, also on Tuesday.

"We have witnesses and pieces of evidence pointing to them (Dulmatin and Patek) as the ones who ordered the bombings," said Doria in a phone interview.

Dulmatin and Patek are considered to be the brains behind the deadly bombings in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 that left more than 200 people, mostly tourists, dead. They are among the objects of a military manhunt in Sulu that also includes Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

Based on the evidence police have gathered, Doria said it was Dulmatin and Patek who ordered Usman to carry out the bombings last week. In turn, Usman coordinated with local terror cells in carrying out the attacks.

"We are continuously working with the DOJ (Department of Justice) to ensure an airtight case against them," said Doria.

He added that as of yesterday, police investigators were finalizing the sworn testimonies of witnesses and consolidating evidence to pin down the suspects.

Usman's alleged participation in the bombings had prompted North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol to accuse the MILF leadership of masterminding and carrying out the bombings.

But Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. has said the involvement of the MILF was mere "speculation" and called on other sectors to stop accusing the MILF since this would derail the resumption of peace talks between the separatist group and the government. The talks bogged down on the issue of "ancestral lands."

Armed Forces officials had earlier tagged the ASG and the JI as the principal suspects in the bombings.

They said the two groups carried out the attacks in retaliation for the arrest of Dulmatin's wife Istiada Oemar Sovie and her two children and to divert attention from the ongoing military operations against them in Sulu.

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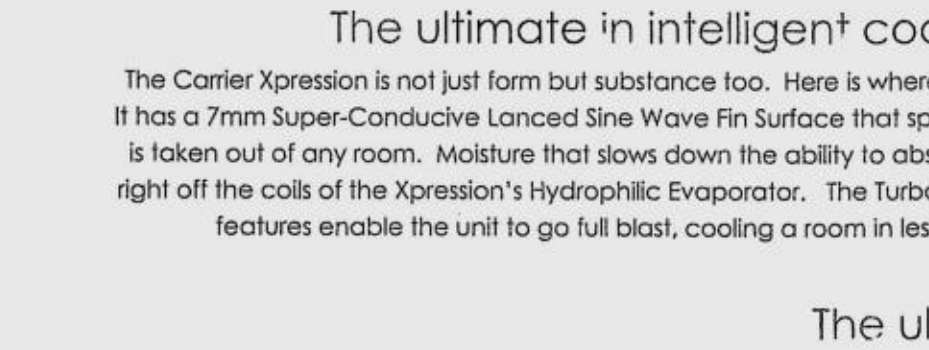

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Weeklong march vs Cha-cha to end at Mendiola

By Michael Lim Ubac

MILITANTS FROM METRO MANILA, CENTRAL Luzon and Southern Tagalog will launch today weeklong street protests to oppose the administration's revived bid to convert Congress into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to amend the Constitution. *(See related story on Page A20.)*

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said yesterday that thousands of farmers from Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog were ready for the long march dubbed "Martsa ng Masang Anakpawis Laban sa Kahirapan, Pambubusabos at Pamamaslang" (Toiling Masses' March Against Poverty, Oppression and Killings).

The march will culminate on Mendiola Bridge (Don Chino Roces Bridge) on Friday to coincide with the 34th anniversary of Presidential Decree 27, or the Ferdinand Marcos' land reform program, which was signed a month after the late strongman declared martial law in 1972.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano said the march would "highlight the opposition of the Filipino peasantry and rural poor to the Arroyo government's Charter change scheme which will only result in massive landgrabbing in the countryside."

Mariano said the start of the march, which will coincide with the celebration of World Food Day today, was the farmers' response to the House majority's decision to tackle Charter change resolutions when Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 6.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Saturday that after the passage of the proposed P1-trillion 2007 budget, the House was ready to make a big push for Cha-cha.

Administration Representatives Isidoro Real and Mauricio Domogan said the budget's passage had given the chamber adequate time for Cha-cha.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, the brains behind the move to change the form of government to a parliamentary system, said the House plenary would start tackling Con-Ass should the people's initiative, a parallel move launched by Sigaw ng Bayan and local authorities to directly amend the Constitution, be junked by the Supreme Court.

'Rebellion charges mere propaganda'

FORMER AMBASSADOR ROY SEÑERES ON Saturday dismissed as mere propaganda the filing of rebellion charges against him and 48 others, including former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and ex-Scout Ranger commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

In a telephone interview, Señeres, a lawyer, said he doubted the National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group could make their case against him stick.

"The quantum of evidence must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. There should be probable cause," he said, noting that in his case, he only advised Lim to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo, something which was not illegal.

"I only advised him to withdraw support from the President and I did not even expect him to follow it," he said, adding that there was also not a strong case against Lim.

"The case of General Lim only amounts to a withdrawal of support, which is not a crime," he said.

According to the former diplomat, the NBI and CIDG seemed to have deliberately thrown a weak case to the Department of Justice.

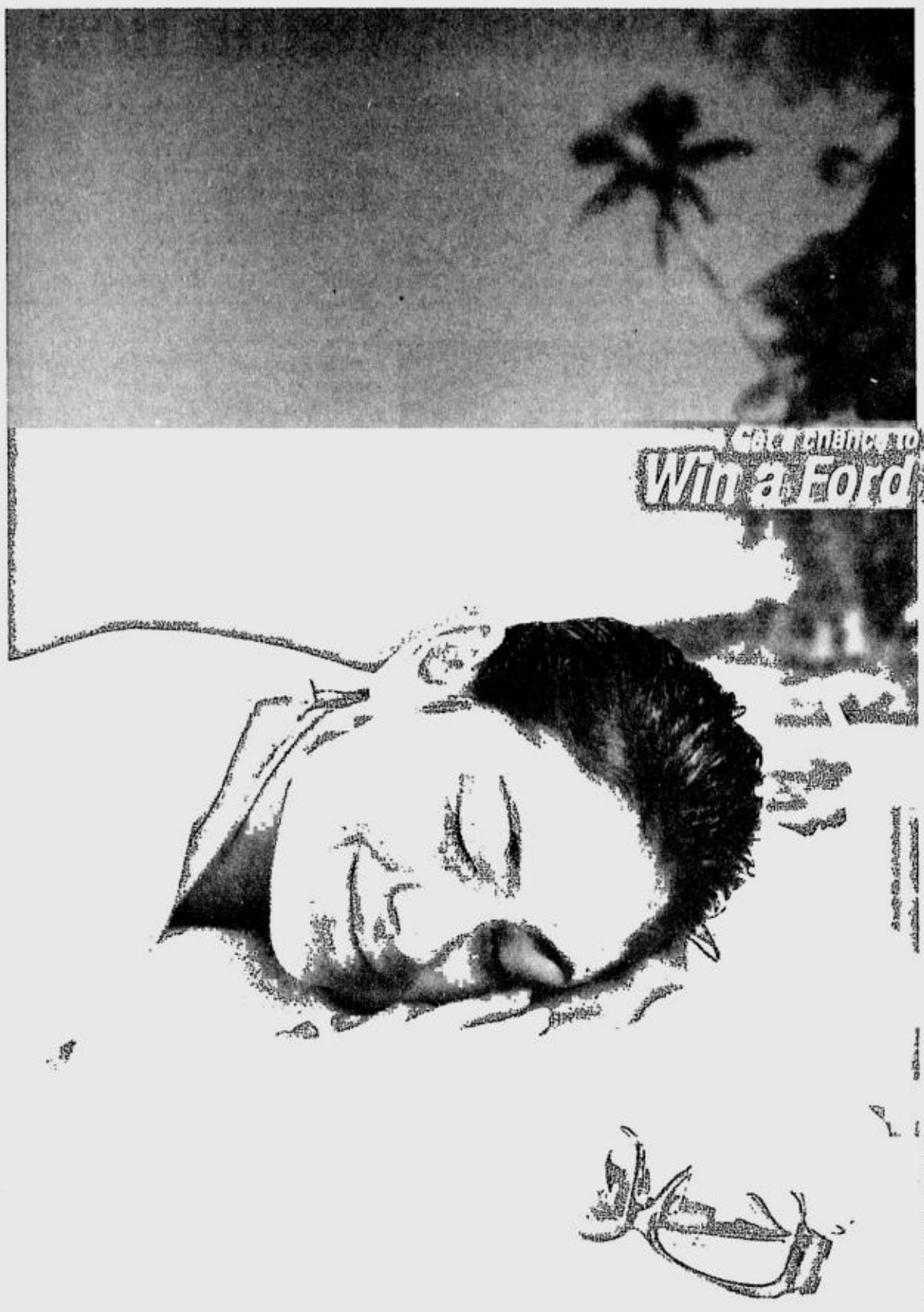
"It seems the move was only aimed at generating media mileage," he said.

Señeres also denied giving a statement to the NBI linking top businessmen to the aborted Feb. 24 coup plot.

In its complaint, the NBI said Señeres had linked former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, ABC-5 chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, construction mogul Felipe Cruz Jr. and tycoon Iñigo Zobel to the failed coup.

The businessmen, however, were not included in the rebellion complaint. *Armand N. Nocum*

Stand up against poverty today



FOR THE FIRST TIME, the United Nations office in the Philippines has organized rock concerts, exhibits and festivals in several towns and cities to get people involved and help eradicate poverty by 2015.

Activities started yesterday and will last until tonight.

Scheduled this morning are simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies at Malacañang, as well as in remote public schools, where officials and students will recite a pledge of commitment to eradicate poverty.

"Hopefully, this will encourage our leaders to fulfill their promise," said Ruth Honculada, coordinator associate of the program with the long name and eight ambitious goals.

The program, "Tumayo Tayo Laban sa Kahirapan, Tuparin and MDGs (Stand Up Against Poverty, Stand Up for the Millennium Development Goals)," is part of a worldwide campaign of the United Nations to remind member-countries of the global vow to eradicate poverty which they drafted in the Millennium Development Goals in 2000.

8 targets

According to Honculada, the goals have eight "time-bound, concrete and specific targets to halve extreme poverty by 2015."

The goals are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empowering women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat the spread of HIV, acute immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability, and develop global partnerships for development.

The responsibility for fulfilling the goals does not fall solely on the government, according to Honculada.

"We are asking people to go out of their comfort zones and choose an advocacy where they could devote their time, effort and resources," she said.

Have fun

By holding fun activities, Honculada said she hoped the youth would become aware of the need to eradicate poverty.

During the activities, people will be asked to stand up—literally—to show they are against poverty, while an auditing firm will do a head count. Hopefully, a record of sorts will be established for possible submission to the Guinness Book of Records.

There will also be exhibits and programs in Baguio City, Los Baños, Sultan Kudarat, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu. There will be a rock concert and a cultural show at the Marikina City Freedom Park this afternoon, where bands and artists from different parts of Luzon will perform. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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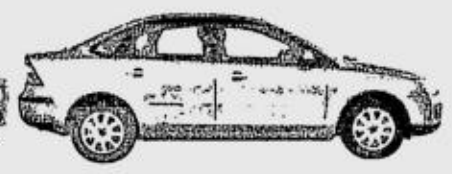

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After Edsa, billboards on Commonwealth next to go

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER EDSA, THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways will shift the focus of its campaign to remove illegal and hazardous billboards to Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, another busy Metro Manila thoroughfare that is considered the most dangerous road for pedestrians.

The DPWH expects to finish the dismantling of illegal billboards along Edsa and on stations of the Metro Rail Transit later this week and will subsequently move on to Commonwealth Avenue, said Emmanuel Cuntapay, director of the National Building Code Development Office of the DPWH.

Cuntapay said the DPWH was focusing its campaign on billboards installed along national roads and near densely populated areas since the monstrous steel structures still posed a threat to people and property in case they topple over or collapse as seen in the recent typhoon.

After removing the billboards along busy thoroughfares in Metro Manila, the DPWH would then dismantle the outdoor advertisements along the South and North Luzon Expressways, Cuntapay added.

The DPWH has been taking down illegal and hazardous billboards in compliance with an administrative order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo after several billboards collapsed due to the strong winds spawned by Typhoon "Milenyo" on Sept. 28.

One person died when a billboard fell on his vehicle, while several others were injured. Several vehicles and properties were also damaged after billboards collapsed on them.

The campaign against billboards, however, has not been without its glitches.

The advertising firm DDBS Advertising Unlimited has secured a temporary restraining order from the Quezon City Regional Trial Court blocking the DPWH's removal of its billboard on a property beside the MRT GMA-Kamuning station leased from the Social Security System.

The firm said the DPWH violated its right to property.

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WOMAN POWER
Members of militant women's groups hold a demonstration in celebration of World Rural Women's Day at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City yesterday.

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DOH to monitor Guimaras folk's health for 5 yrs

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME 1,600 RESIDENTS OF Guimaras, employed by Petron Corp. to clean up the island's shores that were contaminated by the massive oil spill in August, will be undergoing regular medical tests for the next five years, a health official said.

The Department of Health is designing a system to monitor the workers who were exposed to hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic gas emitted by petroleum products, during the cleanup that started two months ago.

"There was an initial blood level determination among residents of the communities. We are now designing the system for prospective monitoring of the 1,600 samples taken from workers," said Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, director of the DOH's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

"We will monitor them for three to five years ... to check biomarkers (a specific physical trait used to measure the progress of a condition) in the blood and the effects of their cleanup work," she said.

Oliveros, who spoke at the launching of the National Implementation Plan for the reduction of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Quezon City, said the effects of organic vapors like hydrogen sulfide may not be immediately seen.

She said the DOH wanted to make sure that the workers were free from both acute and chronic health problems related to their exposure to the toxic gas. The toxic fumes had allegedly killed one person and made 29 others sick.

Top five

The top five clinical complaints in Barangay Cabalagnan, La Paz and Tando were dizziness (65.5 percent), headaches (44.2 percent), body malaise (34.5 percent), numbness (31.0 percent) and coughs (24.1 percent), according to a DOH-UP report that was used as a basis for the evacuation order.

The report done in August revealed that the level of hydrogen sulfide in the air in Cabalagnan was 537.9 to 2,145 parts per million (ppm), much higher than the US-Environmental Protection Agency Provisional Remediation Goal standard of 0.00071 ppm. In La Paz, the hydrogen sulfide level was 13.2 to 165 ppm.

In Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, some 44 families were evacuated from their homes along the shore after August tests showed high levels of toxicity.

The families are staying in evacuation centers and work in Petron's cleanup operations. They lack food and a steady and adequate supply of drinking water.

Dirty water

During their first week, they were provided with purified water. But now they get their supply from the town's water system.

Evacuees said the five-gallon per week supply per family was not enough. Sometimes, the water was murky, forcing them to get water from the Tando village well.

Local officials had earlier warned residents not to drink water from wells after tests showed a high level of toxicity. They said residents could only return to their homes after the affected areas are declared safe.

Petition

International environment watchdog Greenpeace is calling on concerned citizens to sign its online "Petron, stop the spill now!" petition.

The group wants to pressure the giant oil company to immediately take steps to retrieve its continuously spilling bunker fuel from the waters of Guimaras Island.

The MT Solar 1 carrying 2.1 million liters of Petron bunker fuel sank on Aug. 11 in the Guimaras Strait and officials estimated it had leaked out between 200,000 to 1.3 million of the two million liters of bunker fuel it was carrying.

An estimated 120 liters continues to leak from the sunken ship every day.

According to the government, retrieval of the oil now depends on whether or not the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) will approve the compensation of the siphoning of the oil from the sunken vessel.

The IOPC will make its decision only on Oct. 23. If approved, retrieval is expected to begin only in December.

The petition can be found at the Greenpeace website at www.greenpeace.org.ph. *With Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Filipino artists to paint longest canvas for record

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—ARTISTS IN VARIOUS PARTS of the country will simultaneously pick up their brushes today, to try and break Iran's record for the longest painting on a continuous canvas.

The artists, who timed the feat during the celebration of National Fish Conservation Week, will try to secure a spot in the Guinness Book of Records.

The activity will be held in 16 regions, all at the same time, to beat Iran's 3.4-kilometer mural, said Pamela Balaoing, information officer of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Cordillera, the agency supporting the activity.

In Baguio City, more than 100 artists have committed to join the ocean mural painting at Burnham Park.

Balaoing said the artists, led by members of the On the Spot Artists Association Inc. (OTSAA), wanted to create a mural more than 6-km long.

She said participants in the regions were tasked to use 200 meters of canvas to paint aquatic resources indigenous to their regions.

"We are not only doing this to beat the record of Iran but to promote awareness about the richness of our aquatic resources," Balaoing said.

She said OTSAA had already finished painting 3.4-km of canvass. The completed canvas from other regions will be attached to OTSAA's mural on Oct. 20 before it will be officially measured.

Among those expected to join the Baguio event are artists from the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (Vocas), Tahong Bundok, Tam-awan Group, and art students and teachers from the Baguio City National High School, University of Baguio Science High School and Benguet State University.

Balaoing said Baguio artists will feature freshwater fish endemic to the Cordillera in their mural. Among the images will be tilapia and dojo (an eel-like fish).

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1st Reading: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1
Gospel: Luke 11:29-32

As the crowd increased, Jesus began to speak in this way, "People of the present time are evil people. They ask for a sign, but no sign will be given to them except the sign of Jonah. As Jonah became a sign for the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be a sign for this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and here there is greater than Solomon. The people of Nineveh will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for Jonah's preaching made them turn from their sins, and here there is greater than Jonah."

Commentary

We are the children of God, free in baptism, and we are meant to remain free by standing firm and refusing to submit to any yoke of slavery. The yoke we bear is that of the cross of Christ, together working for justice and peace for all. This is the only sign that is given to us: the sign of the Son of Man, rejected, crucified and risen. This strangely enough is the wisdom of God and all other wisdom fades into oblivion in the face of God in Jesus. Have we repented at the preaching of the Gospel? Or will we be known as another wicked generation and be condemned?

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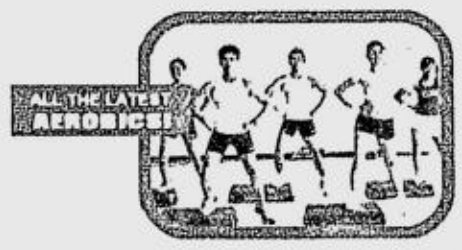

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Muslim scholars cite Pope's factual errors

From page A1

Pope's stated regrets over the uproar and his expressions of respect for all Muslims.

The politely worded letter challenged the former theology professor in his own area of expertise and gave him poor marks for misreading the Koran, failing to use terms correctly and citing obscure and possibly biased sources.

"The letter represents an attempt to engage with the papacy on theological grounds in order to tackle wide-ranging misconceptions about Islam in the Western world," said Islamica Magazine, an international quarterly on Muslim affairs that posted the open letter on its website on Saturday.

Managing editor Mohammad Khan told Reuters a copy of the letter would be handed to the Vatican nuncio (ambassador) on Sunday in Amman, where Islamica has an editorial office.

Speaking in Regensburg in early September, Benedict quoted a 14th century Byzantine emperor as saying Islam was evil and irrational and had been spread by the sword.

The speech sparked protests across the Muslim world, several churches were attacked in the Middle East and an Italian nun was murdered in Somalia. Benedict has said he did not agree with the emperor he quoted.

The scholars included grand muftis of Egypt, Oman, Uzbekistan, Istanbul, Russia, Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, as well as a Shiite ayatollah, Jordanian Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad bin Talal and Western-based academics.

They faulted Benedict for arguing that a Koran verse advocating religious freedom was written while the Prophet Mohammad was politically weak and "instructions ... concerning holy war" written when he was strong.

The verse was written when Mohammad ruled in Medina and wanted to keep converts from forcing their children to abandon their Christian or Jewish faith for Islam, they wrote.

The letter also faulted the Pope for translating "jihad" as "holy war," saying "jihad" means a "struggle in the way of God" and did not necessarily have to include force.

Dodgy sourcing

Benedict used a "very marginal source," the scholars wrote, when he quoted an obscure 11th-century thinker, Ibn Hazm, to say Muslims thought God was so transcendent that he was not even bound by his own word.

The scholars also disputed passages where the Pope said or implied that Islam was irrational, violent and based on forced conversion.

"Had Muslims desired to convert all others by force, there would not be a single church or synagogue left anywhere in the Islamic world," they wrote.

They asked how Benedict could argue that violence was against God's nature when Jesus Christ used it to drive the moneychangers out of the Temple in Jerusalem.

It would be better to say cruelty, brutality and aggression were against God's will, the scholars argued, adding that the Islamic concept of jihad also condemned these scourges.

The letter acknowledged that some Muslims used violence "in favor of utopian dreams," but said this went against Islamic teaching and specifically condemned the murder of the Italian nun in Somalia.

The scholars also chided Benedict for basing his view of Islam on books by two Catholic writers, saying Christians and Muslims should "consider the actual voices of those we are dialoguing with, and not merely those of our own persuasion." *Reuters*

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Muslims start 10-night peace vigil ...

From page A1

Muslim jurists expert in religious law—collectively speak up on human virtues that serve as antidotes to the evils of violence and the menace of dangerous drugs.

Hence, the need for Muslims to invoke the fear of God to attain a "good relationship among humanity and with other creations of God," to "suppress" want, and to despise "misguidance in teachings and practices," according to the muftis.

They also spelled out the Muslim stand on such issues as genetically engineered foods, issued a prohibition on the slaughter of sea turtles, it being a declining species, and declared water systems with heavy *E. coli* content, like the one in Basilan, as not being "halal" (permissible) for human consumption.

Recommended website

In a statement sent to the Bishop-Ulama Conference in Davao City, the muftis also said: "In this day and age of computer and advancing information technology, we are a fingertip away from the minds of great men and women from other faiths who are honestly decoding al-Qur'an (the Koran), and we are lucky that everything has been made easy and open in our time."

Ebrahim said the muftis recommended the website http://www.islam-briefguide.org for online Muslim and non-Muslim researchers of the Koran.

The website contains commentaries on the Koran from contemporary specialists, mostly from the scientific community.

According to the muftis, Ramadan is a season of peace, training for perseverance, self-restraint, physical and spiritual purification, fear of God, and a social test by which the rich and the poor learn to share hunger through fasting.

In the Jolo incident, provincial police chief Senior Supt. Ahirol Adjirim said a certain Lita saw a man leave a pail in a tricycle parked in an alley. Suspecting something, the woman called the police, who sealed off the dark alley.

Moments later, an explosion rocked the scene.

The blast damaged the inn's fence and a nearby beauty parlor, according to Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Selana, commander of the 104th Brigade.

The improvised Pagadian bomb was found by a garbage collector near the gates of the city's Agora Public Market yesterday morning, police said.

Chief Insp. Oscar Tan Buenaobra, acting city police chief, said the bomb was assembled from 60-mm and 40-mm mortars, with a timing device and shrapnel.

He said the bomb was in a cooking pot, placed inside a bag and timed to explode at 11:20 a.m. It was found at 7:16 a.m.

Buenaobra could not say if the bomb had anything to do with the series of blasts in Central Mindanao last week, which included the Makilala bombing on Oct. 10 and an explosion the same day in Tacurong City's public market in Sultan Kudarat province, where four people were wounded.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the hand of the Jemaah Islamiyah was "visible" in the attacks. But he also blamed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The MILF has denied involvement and offered to help the government identify and arrest the suspects.

Different version

In Manila, the military gave a different version as to who found the Pagadian bomb. It said that according to initial information from the 1st Infantry Division, it was found by civilian militia member Marcelo de la Cruz and AFP intelligence operatives.

"The discovery of the bomb was a result of the intensified security efforts of the AFP and the Philippine National Police in Mindanao," Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

He said it was "too early to say" who had planted the bomb but that the military was "looking at probable connections to terror threats ... or other groups."

Checkpoints up

"Military bomb experts are now studying an IED (improvised explosive device) recovered. But one thing sure is that an IED in a public place spells danger to life and property. Its recovery by our troops preempted that danger," he said.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer said intelligence information indicated Muslim militants planned to detonate at least six bombs in Pagadian and troops were checking certain areas of the city for possible bombs.

"We're very closely guarding the piers, airports and all places where terrorist activities can happen," regional police Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal told dzBB radio. *With reports from Hernan P. dela Cruz and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, Alcuin Papa in Manila and AP*

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2.	Unit PH A - 274.47 sq.m. residential condo	Chateu Verde Condo B2, cor E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave., and Atis St., Pasig City	P7,960,000
3.	Unit 325 - 122.83 sq.m. residential condo	Chateu Verde Condo, cor E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave., and Atis St., Pasig City	P2,880,000
4.	1 lot shoe mfg raw materials	5th Camarilla cor. 1st Camarilla Sts. Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City	P4,525,000
5.	157 sq.m res'l lot w/ 2-storey house	Lot 4, Road Lot 32 from A.H. Ozaeta St., Vista Grande, BF Resort IV, Las Piñas City	P1,619,000
6.	4,196 sq m. ind'l lot w/ marine processing plant/warehouse/ office building/power house	Brgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	P4,130,000
7.	2 units Reefer Van	Brgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	P100,000
8.	2 units "Philec" Distributor Transformer 75-KVA	Brgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	P80,000
9.	1 unit "Isuzu" Elf Cargo	Brgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	P10,000
10.	2 units stainless steel table	Brgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	P4,000
11.	2 parcels of agri/ind'l land - 34,008 sq.m. w/ warehouse/ office qtr	Bgy. Bakal Tres, Maharlika H-way, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	P17,030,867

For the complete description of Item Nos. 1-10 including bidding forms, you may look for May or Jhoanna of the Special Assets Department (SPAD) 30/F, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila

For Item No. 11, public bidding will be held at 3rd Floor Megacenter The Mall, General Tiñio St., Cabanatuan City, you may look for Mr. Fred Wenceslao or Ms. Regina C. Nimes at (044) 463-1803 or (044) 600-1835

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding

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Chairman
HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI – Oct. 16, 2006)

Magdalo officer faces second charge

A PHILIPPINE AIR Force pilot undergoing trial in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny has been slapped a second charge before a general court-martial for allegedly making antigovernment statements.

First Lt. Francisco Ashley Acedillo was charged with violation of Articles of War 91, or making provoking statements and gestures, according to the PAF spokesperson.

"The investigation showed that there was probable cause to file such charges against Lieutenant Acedillo," Maj. Augusto de la Peña told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Acedillo's second charge stemmed from an interview with reporters after a hearing on Feb. 14 where he was quoted as saying that the people should choose between remaining under a system run through corruption and taking "a stand for truth and change."

Acedillo substituted for the Magdalo spokesperson that day and repeated earlier statements made by Navy Lt. Sg. Antonio Trillanes IV, the leader of the so-called Magdalo group that took over the swank Oakwood hotel complex in July 2003.

De la Peña said that Acedillo was charged before the court-martial because the latter's statements were "contrary to the values of soldiery." *Nikko Dizon*

DPWH gears up for med tourism

A NEW BUILDING IS being constructed at the Philippine Heart Center compound in Quezon City to meet the needs of an expanding medical tourism program.

The Department of Public Works and Highways, which is handling the construction of the three-story building, expects the first phase of the P238-million project to be completed by February 2007.

"This project will boost medical tourism as it provides enhanced, more accessible and more affordable health care not only to the public, but to the entire country and Asian region as well," Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said.

The Philippines is urging foreigners to visit the country and avail themselves of its relatively cheaper medical procedures and wellness packages, including spa services. On the side, they could also enjoy the country's tourist attractions.

Ebdane said the new building's ground floor will have medical offices and commercial spaces, while the second floor will have commercial areas and parking spaces. The third floor and roof deck will be for parking. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Blind techies study musical transcription

From page A1

nology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired. Set up in 1994, it currently shares office and training space with its partner school, STI-Cubao, at the Araneta Center in Quezon City.

A multi-awarded institution, the school has sustained partnerships also with the World Bank, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and info tech companies like IBM Philippines. Its board of trustees is chaired by Australian economic analyst Peter Wallace.

But beyond churning out impressive graduates, Atriev has proven that the blind can indeed lead the blind: Its 12 "founders" are themselves computer enthusiasts whose world is one big blank screen.

One of those founders is now the school president, Antonio Llanes Jr., an AB Psychology graduate and ordained pastor, who also earlier worked in a string of music lounges either as a keyboard player or a "sequencer."

A sequencer is someone who preprograms some or all of the instrumentals in a song which could otherwise be performed live; the task can thus be considered an early form of musical transcription, "Tony" explained.

Self-taught geek

Despite being born to darkness, Llanes strove to become a self-taught computer geek in the '80s by buying IT books, among other science materials, and "having my wife Necy read them to me."

The father of four had also taught himself how to repair household appliances, needing only an assistant "to tell me what color is this wire or that."

Equipping the blind with skills that are currently "in demand" has been Atriev's principle in designing its curriculum, added Llanes, whose own home served as Atriev's first workshop.

And now in his 12th year of running the school, the sightless headmaster has apparently seen the next big thing for his students.

"Every barangay in this country probably has at least two restaurants or beerhouses that have videoke machines," Tony smiled when the INQUIRER met him last week at an Atriev function where he served, practically unassisted, as the sound system technician.

Making music digital

"For as long as there are new hit songs, whether foreign or local, that need to be added to our videoke (repertoire) or downloaded into our cell phones, there will always be a demand for musical transcriptionists," he said.

For videoke or mobile phone use, musical transcription basically involves transforming an original track of music into digital "Minus One" format.

The transcriptionist, of course, must know how to play an instrument like a synthesizer or organ to begin with. His or her main task is to copy the melody, rhythm and harmony of the original piece.

Working alone, he must capture the notes and chords from the different instruments used in the song. The aim is to be as faithful as possible to the original rendition—or to be "*plakado*," in local musicians' lingo.

The applied technology is called Midi (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), which allows the transcriptionist to record what he plays on the organ and then play back the piece for editing, this time using a computer keyboard.

Guiding voice

But for the blind to do all this, he needs help from another software called "Jaws" (Job Access with Speech), essentially a guiding "voice" that tells him every action he makes on the computer screen or keyboard.

Introduced in the country in the mid-1980s during the DOS era, Jaws helps the groping user sense whether he has struck the right key, opened the right scroll, or clicked on the right option.

Llanes said Atriev piloted the course early this year, with its first four students aspiring to be the first Filipino blind musical transcriptionists who could meet requirements not only in the Philippines but in other videoke-crazy countries like Taiwan and Japan.

To ensure the employment of the blind students, the school has made preliminary arrangements with multimedia service companies that serve as "content providers" to videoke producers and cell phone companies, Llanes said.

To be industry-grade, however, these pioneering Atriev trainees must be able to match up with their sighted counterparts. They must, for example, "digitize" a new song in just three to four days, he said, describing how hungry the videoke market has become.

Unlocking hidden powers

"It's tedious work but we can do it," Llanes said. "We have long been unlocking the hidden powers of the blind through technology."

Atriev alumni include Dr. Michael Borgonia, who lost his vision due to a bullet wound but went on to become Asia's first blind medical transcriptionist; Ma. Criselda Bisda, sighted until she was 12 and now the country's first blind recruitment specialist working for TeleTech call center, and Julius Charles Serrano, who became blind in his late teens but last year was the first Filipino with such a disability to finish computer science.

The school has also trained over 350 visually impaired persons aged 17 to 60 in basic computer literacy. It has also taught over 100 sighted persons to become IT instructors, special education teachers, rehabilitation workers—or just the best parents—for the blind.

(Atriev is mounting a benefit concert this Oct. 27, 7 p.m., at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City. Titled "When You Believe," the show hopes to underscore the struggles and achievements of its graduates, and will feature pop, R&B and jazz artists like Mon David and Jamie Rivera along with Atriev's own singing talents.)

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Telenovelas win TV hearts across globe

From page A1

makers, contradicting playwright William Shakespeare's famous observation that "the course of true love never did run smooth."

The staple of TV in Spanish-speaking countries for many years, love story telenovelas—or soap operas—were the surprise hits this year in Germany, one of the world's largest TV markets.

"Verliebt in Berlin," the German version of Colombian smash hit "Betty La Fea" (Ugly Betty) was watched by more than 3.8 million viewers when it aired on Sat 1 channel earlier this year.

"Betty" is the story of a career woman who, although not conventionally beautiful, succeeds in getting her boss to fall for her, while fighting for her rights and for love along the way.

Brisk sales

As a result, telenovelas were high on international program buyers' wish lists, and sales were brisk at the influential Mipcom TV trade show in Cannes this week.

"We're seeing lots of Latin American and Asian buyers at the stand but that's normal," Jose Escalante, senior executive at the international arm of Venezuela's RCTV, told Mipcom Daily News.

"What has been different this week is the large numbers of German, French, Dutch and Scandinavian companies buying both completed novelas and formats."

This means that romantic dramas where love conquers all—after some 200 episodes—will be coming to TV screens across Europe, from Spain to Russia and France to Romania.

A large part of this success is due to the telenovelas' new look.

Love and aspiration are still the key ingredients, but the new dramas now also reflect harder aspects of modern day life, such as divorce and drug addiction.

Another reason is that some of most innovative and powerful players in the TV content business are starting to produce and distribute telenovelas. These include British-based FreemantleMedia, as well as America's NBC Universal and Sony Pictures Television International.

Ready for romance

Added to that is the view that "people are ready for romance" in Europe, Nick Manholt, FreemantleMedia's senior development executive, told Agence France Presse.

"The telenovela continues to grow in popularity, bringing new business to broadcasters and local producers, from Germany to Korea and from Israel to the UK," said Paul Johnson, head of TV at Reed Midem, which organizes Mipcom.

But it has taken some time for the Latin American telenovela to arrive in Europe.

It took almost 10 years for German broadcaster Sat 1 to be persuaded to air a telenovela-style romantic drama, according to Wolf Bauer of FreemantleMedia's German subsidiary Grundy UFA.

But when the show finally went on air, it was a smash hit that turned round ratings and fueled demand for more love stories both in Germany and outside.

FreemantleMedia has repeated its first German success with "Bianca—Road to Happiness," a modern fairy tale about a woman who begins a new life after being wrongly convicted for a crime she did not commit.

Broadcast on Germany's public television station ZDF, the show was extended due to popular demand.

Powerful recipe

Mixing romance with reality is proving a powerful TV recipe that has widened audience appeal to pull in 14- to 29-year-olds in big numbers without losing the core audience of older women.

But men are also starting to be targeted.

"Finding Rodrigo," a new telenovela coproduction between FreemantleMedia and Colombia's Teleset, stars a man who pretends to be gay in order to get on to a reality show. The problems really start when he is forced to "out" himself on-air and falls in love with show's beautiful female presenter.

Telenovelas are also starting to turn full circle, with FreemantleMedia starting to win commissions for some of its newest telenovelas from Latin American broadcasters.

Colombia's RCN Television, for example, signed a deal at Mipcom to broadcast FreemantleMedia's "Forbidden Games," and "Blue Sky" was licensed to Colombia's Caracol television.

These deals indicate the new telenovelas are likely to be around for a while.

"As they have an end, telenovelas will have more variety than (conventional) soaps," FreemantleMedia's Manholt pointed out.

It also looks likely that "the end" will continue to be a happy one for viewers, broadcasters and the program makers. As the old saying goes: "Love conquers all." *AFP*

UP alumni to rate performance of fellow grads in gov't

By Ricardo S. Malay
Contributor

IN A MUCH AWAITED move, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association will start rating graduates of the premier state university occupying key government positions on their performance, commitment, lifestyles and integrity.

At a weekend meeting, the UPAA authorized its public issues committee to rate in a scorecard UP alumni sitting in the executive and legislative branches of government, the most prominent of whom is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President, who has a masters degree in economics from UP, will be rated, along with nine members of her Cabinet who also graduated from the state university, by 48 representatives of the alumni group.

Twelve alumni are in the Senate while 43 are in the House of Representatives. The evaluation of UP graduates sitting on the Supreme Court was thought better left to other organizations.

Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano, Francis Escudero, Edcel Lagman and Luis Villafuerte are some of the UP graduates in the House although they are on opposite sides of the aisle.

Initiative

The first of its kind, the project will be guided by standards and methodology drawn up by two university units—the College of Public Administration and the School of Statistics.

Its framework is derived from Republic Act No. 6713, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

To be composed of university personnel and volunteers, the accountability team said it expected the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to cooperate with it.

The survey will prove "the UPAA is watching its alumni in government and will not tolerate unethical conduct, incompetence and behavior that violates the nationalistic spirit that UP stands for," said committee member Behn Cervantes.

Cervantes, a UP drama professor and activist, deplored that "UP has appeared to be a *kunsentidor*, sitting around as its alumni wreak havoc on the government and the rest of us say nothing about it."

Other committee members, including former United Nations official Bayani Aguirre, echoed the view that all public officials should be held accountable, "beginning with UP alumni in government."

Contribution

In the past, the UPAA had been criticized for its "run-of-the-mill activities" while being hesitant to pass judgment on UP-educated government officials who historically have been numerically dominant in the public service. Many asserted the state university should have taken an official stand against the strongman rule of President Ferdinand Marcos, a UP law graduate, whose legacy is rife with corruption and repression.

The current UPAA, with lawyer Gari Tiongco at its helm, said it hoped UP's initiative would push other universities to undertake a similar move as part of academe's contribution to the nation.

Public issues committee chair Rita Linda Jimeno said they expect to release the scorecards on the Senate on Nov. 30 (National Heroes Day), on the executive branch on Dec. 30 (Rizal Day), and on the House on Feb. 14 next year.

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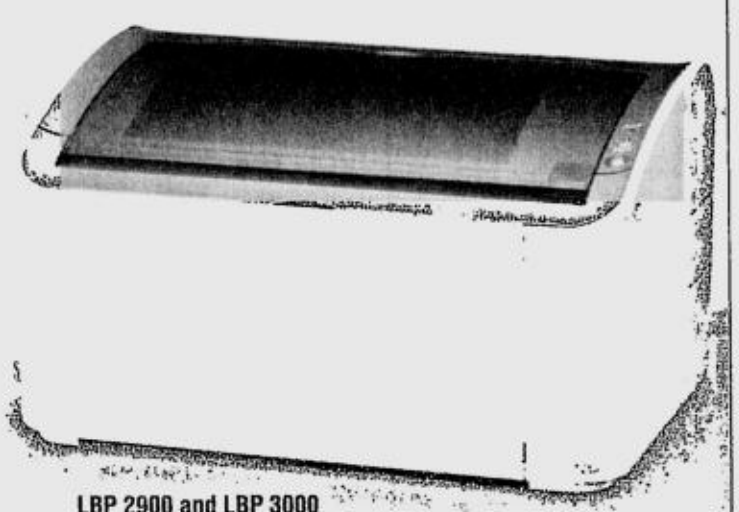

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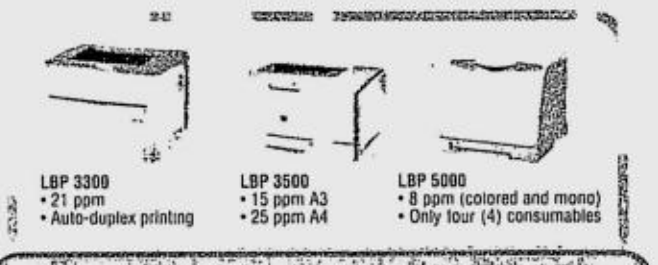

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Tutors must still serve

WHILE THE MILITARY will now have a limited role in the conduct of elections in the country, the same cannot be said of teachers.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said teachers would still have to play a major role in elections until the polls are automated.

But he said he was pushing for the exclusion of the teachers—numbering some 500,000—from election duty to protect them from the "dangers" during polls, including harassment by politicians.

"Yes (I am for relieving teachers of poll duties), but it can't be done until the electoral system is fully automated," Lapus said.

The Senate recently approved a measure authorizing partial computerization in next year's midterm elections.

Lapus said computerization should begin at registration, through the voting and canvassing stages.

"DepEd [Department of Education] personnel should not be used as political workers," he said.

Public school teachers around the country are deputized as election workers to handle duties ranging from supervising the balloting to the canvassing of votes, oftentimes for days and until the wee hours.

Last week, the Department of National Defense and the Commission on Elections signed an agreement limiting the involvement of the military in elections. *Alcuin Papa*

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We need a bridge, cry Iloilo townsfolk as they bury

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

IGBARAS, ILOILO—THIS TOWN HELD ITS biggest funeral yet yesterday as it laid to rest 12 of the 22 people who died when strong currents swept an overloaded jeepney off an overflow bridge and into a river on Oct 2.

Wails resounded throughout the municipal public cemetery as, one by one, the 12 white caskets were entombed.

The caskets had lain in the multipurpose gym in the town proper where thousands of Igbarasnons joined relatives and friends of the victims in a final night vigil and the funeral Mass the following day. The other fatalities were buried earlier or will be laid to rest this week.

More residents lined both sides of the street during the one-and-a-half kilometer funeral march from the gym to the cemetery.

Many of those at the funeral wore black shirts with the legend "Never Again" and "Remember the Songsongon Tragedy" referring to Sitio Songsongon here where the accident happened.

The overloaded "jumbo" jeepney was attempting to cross the Tangyan River on an overflow bridge when the strong current helped by days of steady rain swept the vehicle into the raging water.

Of about 60 passengers, 22 did not make it, 19 remain missing. The 19, however, have been officially considered fatalities even though their bodies had not been found.

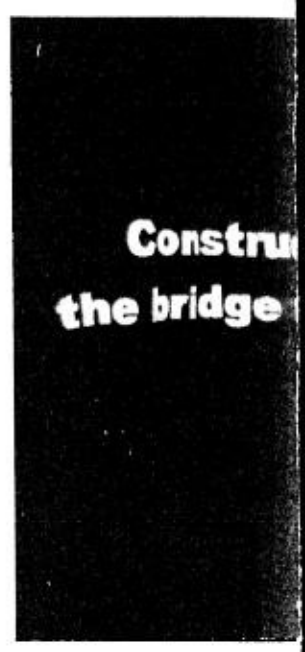
"All of them died for a purpose," said Fr. Joemarie Villalobos, assistant parish vicar, in his homily. "They gave us hope. They gave us the real meaning of life."

Parish priest Fr. Francis Nicolasora prayed for the 19 missing.

"We love you," was all 7-year-old Zesangril Embiado could say as his mother, Evangeline, was laid to rest.

He and his four siblings lost both their parents in the tragedy. Their father, Victor, was among the missing.

Igbaras Mayor Jaime Esmeralda said in a speech the tragedy clearly showed "the genuine needs of our people that require the concern, attention and action of the higher authorities."



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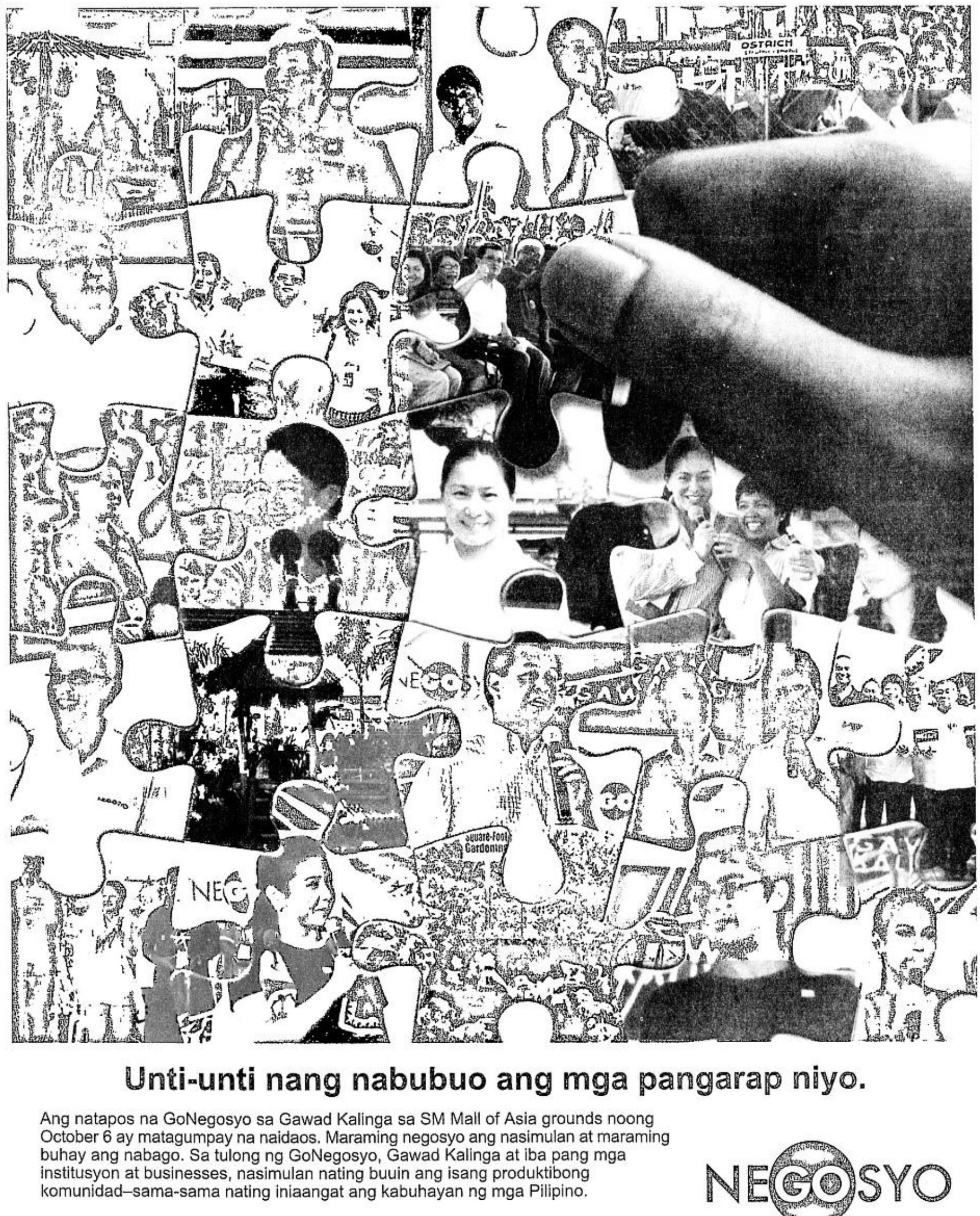

Senators see
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TANAUAN CITY—SEN. RAMON Magsaysay Jr. and Sen. Jamby Madrigal have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the release for humanitarian reasons of five farmers accused of being New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Magsaysay said he and Madrigal wrote Ms Arroyo three weeks ago appealing for the release of the farmers, collectively known as the "Tagaytay 5."

He said they wrote the President shortly after they visited the five at Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City where they are being held
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THE FIRST STUDENT ADVERtising congress goes to St. Paul University, Quezon City, for the third and final leg of its school tour on Oct. 18 at the Fr. James B. Reuter auditorium at 3 p.m.

With the theme "For the Youth. By the Youth," the congress aims to uplift the creative excellence of students taking up advertising, mass communications, broadcasting, public relations, fine arts, theater arts and allied courses.

The congress kicked off on Aug. 18 at Far Eastern University; its second installment was at Lyceum of the Philippines University on Sept. 22.

The final leg will cover schools in Quezon City
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PACAP celebrates its active participation in the up

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THE PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA Community Assistance Program (PACAP), a funding program which has granted over P1 billion to some 1,500 community development projects, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

PACAP is a program of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

From October 2006 to February 2007, it will hold a series of road shows in communities where it is active. There will be trade fairs, games, exhibits and a songwriting competition highlighting the fruits of the program.

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Unti-unti nang nabubuo ang mga pangarap niyo.

Ang natapos na GoNegosyo sa Gawad Kalinga sa SM Mall of Asia grounds noong October 6 ay matagumpay na naidaos. Maraming negosyo ang nasimulan at maraming buhay ang nabago. Sa tulong ng GoNegosyo, Gawad Kalinga at iba pang mga institusyon at businesses, nasimulan nating buuin ang isang produktibong komunidad–sama-sama nating iniaangat ang kabuhayan ng mga Pilipino.

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-Tony Meloto
Executive Director
Gawad Kalinga

"We are inspired by what Gawad Kalinga is doing and we share a common vision to bring back optimism and productivity in our country. We see GK helping in KABAHAYAN. We see GoNegosyo helping in KABUHAYAN".

-Joey Concepcion
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k release ed NPA rebels

or: their alleged posed terror plot e carried out on

sident has not an- tter," Magsaysay uring a visit here

ristedes Sarmien- drо Pinpin, Rico Custodio and ves—were seized Navy intelligence row Tagaytay City ight of April 28 e on their way to Talisay, Batangas.

They were accused of planning to bomb several places during the Labor Day celebration to topple the Arroyo administration.

The five denied the accusation and said they were researchers and community organizers.

Magsaysay, the son of the late President Ramon Magsaysay who facilitated the surrender of communist rebel leader Luis Taruc in the 1950s, said he and Madrigal believed the five were not NPA rebels. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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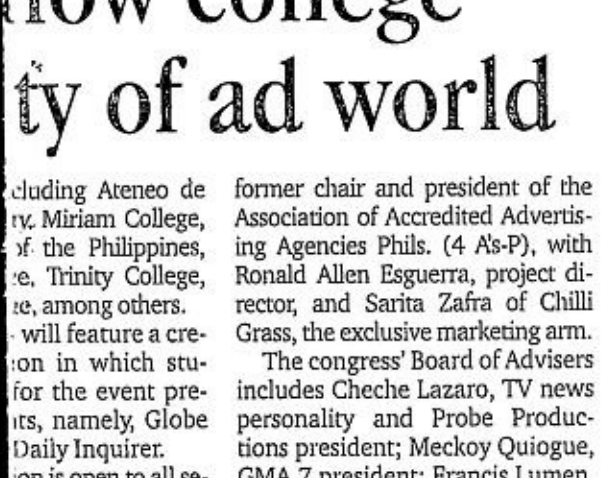

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versary celebration 11 and 13 in Ina- or, Bohol. The rest will take place in mmunities: Bohol: 15, Carmen, Oct. 17); Iloilo (Oct. 21); Capiz (Oct. 24); Aklan (Oct. 27); Northern Samar (Nov. 8, 10, 12, 14, 16); Agusan del Sur (Nov. 25, 27, 29); Surigao del Norte (Surigao del Norte City, Dec. 5, Siargao Island, Dec. 8, Dinagat Island, Dec. 10, Lake Mainit, Dec. 12); Cagayan de Oro (Dec. 16); Misamis Occidental (Jan. 8, 10, 12, 14, 2007); Cotabato City (Jan. 24, 2007); South Cotabato (Jan. 27, 29, 31, 2007); Ateneo de Naga, Bicol (Feb. 5, 2007); UP Diliman (Feb. 11, 2007).

The celebration will end with a 3-day National Forum on Feb. 21-23, 2007, in Davao City.

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OPINION

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Macro credit

TWENTY-TWO YEARS AFTER HIS MAGSAYSAY Award for Community Leadership, Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh has received the Nobel Peace Prize. It is a prize he shares with Grameen Bank, the micro-credit institution he founded that has served millions of Bangladeshis—and thousands more outside his country—through small, cheap loans that helped them lift themselves out of poverty.

EDITORIALS

It is also a prize he richly deserves. Pope Paul VI famously wrote, 40 years ago, that development was "the new name for peace." Yunus has lived his entire life, in the words of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, helping poor people "create economic and social development from below." His prize allows even skeptics to realize the integral connection between anti-poverty campaigns and lasting peace.

"Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty," the Norwegian Nobel Committee wrote. "Micro-credit is one such means. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights."

The committee is indubitably right.

We recognize the radical, even breathtaking simplicity behind Yunus' vision; "loans to poor people without any financial security had appeared to be an impossible idea," the committee wrote. At the same time, we praise the simple genius that turned that idea, again and again and again, into plain reality. The result has been a lifting-one's-self-by-one's-bootstraps phenomenon that restores dignity even to the poorest of the poor.

And micro

THESE THOUGHTS ON THE MICRO-CREDIT legacy of an economics professor remind us of another micro-credit initiative launched by another economist: we mean, of course, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Executive Order 558.

EO 558, as we wrote last month, threatens to undermine the Arroyo administration's hard-won financial discipline by allowing government non-financial agencies (GNFAs) and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) to reenter the subsidized credit business.

We cannot but understand this new policy as the repoliticization of cheap credit—something ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had used to great effect especially in his bailiwicks. His success, and the potential for consolidating political control in the President's areas of support through the use of cheap loans, must have recommended the new policy to the President and her **political** advisers.

Her economic managers, however, were largely unconsulted before EO 558 was issued on Aug. 8. By simply repealing President Joseph Estrada's EO 138—which had, among other innovations, disallowed GNFAs and GOCCs from lending funds—the new EO raised the possibility, yet again, of behest loans and other forms of politicized, undisciplined lending.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves was one of many officials taken aback by the new EO. But working in concert with other concerned parties, he has managed to drastically limit the scope of EO 558. Under the EO's new look, direct microfinance lending by GNFAs and GOCCs is limited to only one agency: the Department of Social Welfare and Development. If we understand the latest developments correctly, the amount of money the DSWD can lend has also been strictly limited: to P100 million, using moneys from the National Livelihood Support Fund.

President Arroyo has green-lighted these revisions; the clearest sign of her change of mind was a recent speech at the Land Bank, where she identified the country's 10 poorest provinces, spoke about the need to offer micro-financing to micro-enterprises in these provinces, and then said: "We want DSWD to be funding these areas."

This is, altogether, a small but significant victory for the non-politicians who manage the economy. Whether next year's political exercises will change the terms of reference and undercut this victory remains to be seen. The administration's foray into micro-credit requires macro monitoring.

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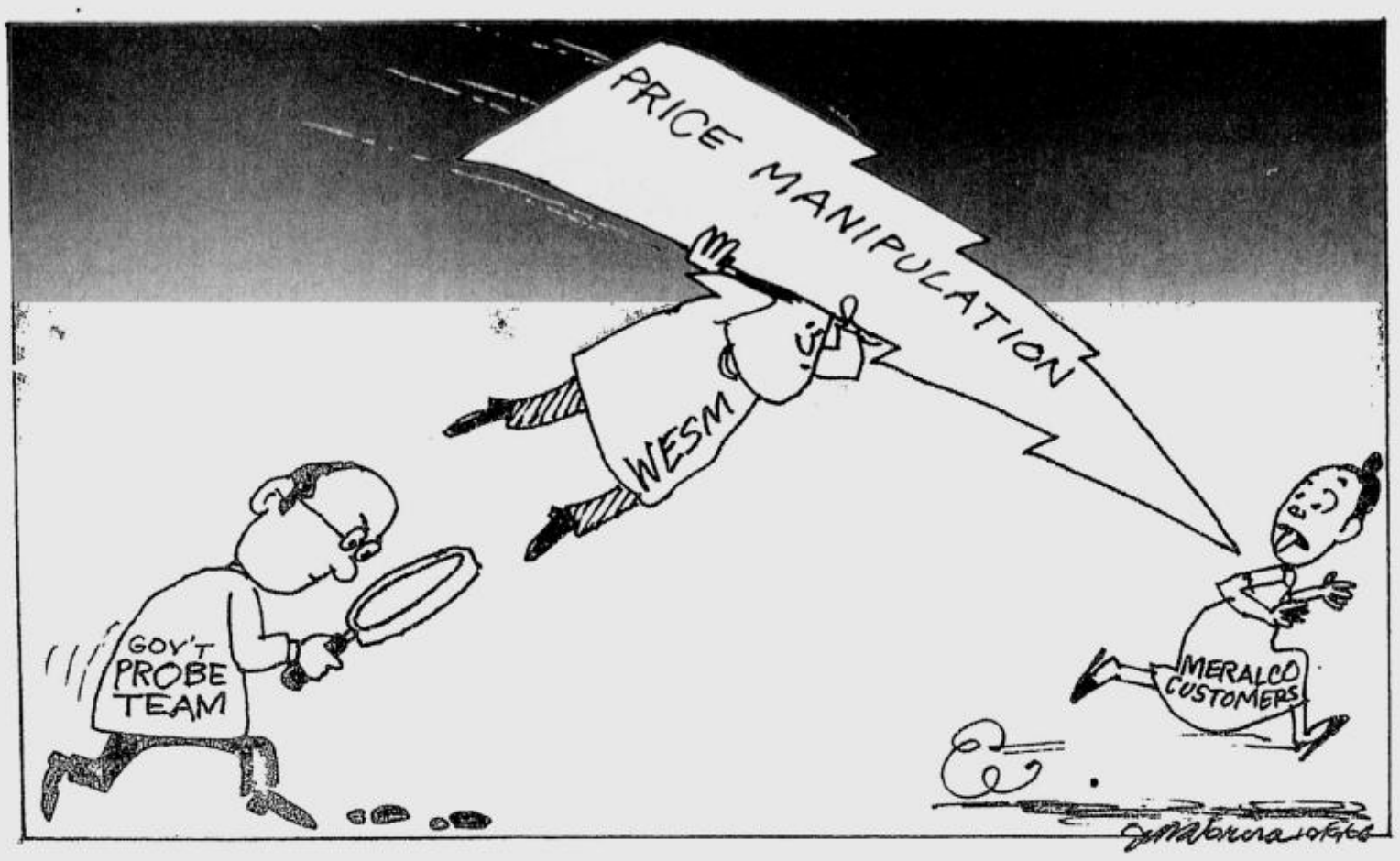

Libel law violates Bill of Rights

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS and other press organizations are gathering signatures (a la people's initiative) to petition Congress to decriminalize libel. This is in reaction to the "libel-filing spree" engaged in by First Gentleman(?) Mike Arroyo who, as of last count, has filed libel charges against 43 journalists. (As if the court dockets were not already clogged.)

While the move to have the libel law decriminalized will remove the fear of landing in jail—which lurks at the back of the mind of every crusading journalist—I do not think that this is the right response to the penchant of onion-skinned public figures for harassing the press with libel suits. (FG Mike Arroyo is a public figure and, therefore, is a "public property" who cannot sue for libel, according to American jurisprudence). Decriminalizing libel will only make judges less conscience-stricken in deciding against journalists since the latter will not be going to jail anyway but will only be made to pay fines and damages. And therein lies the booby-trap. While a criminal case needs proof beyond reasonable doubt to convict, a civil case needs only a preponderance of evidence. And the judges will be more liberal in awarding damages to complainants—especially if they (the complainants) will share some of the amount with the judges. At least two newspapers in the United States went bankrupt because of generous damages awarded by civil courts to complainants.

I think the meaningful response to libel-happy public figures is to amend the now obsolete libel law to make it conform to the Bill of Rights in our Constitution.

The Bill of Rights provides that "an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty." But the law on libel, as it is written and interpreted at present, presumes an accused guilty until he proves his innocence. Why so?

Libel has four elements: defamatory imputation, identification (the aggrieved party must be identifiable), publication and malice. The first three are already present when a libel complaint is filed; only the last, malice, is needed to convict. It is the absence of malice that gives most journalists a false sense of security. They think malice is very hard to prove. Wrong. In fact, under the present libel law, the complainant doesn't have to prove malice at all.

In law, there are two kinds of malice: malice in law and malice in fact. Under the present libel law, there is such a thing as "malice in law" or "malice per se" or "presumed malice." Any defamatory statement is presumed by the law to be "malicious," meaning, meant to hurt the subject person the moment it comes out.

The accused can overcome this presumption of malice by presenting justifiable reasons and other evidence in his defense—such as, the sources of the story or column are "privileged" (records of congressional or judicial hearings, public records, official statements, etc.), or that the publication of the story is in the public interest, or that the accuser is a public official whose official actuations the public has the right to know. But the burden of proof is on the accused (not on the accuser as the Constitution requires). If the accused forgets to defend himself, or is declared in default by the court, the accuser doesn't have to prove anything. The presumption of malice stays and the accused is convicted—on a technicality.

Even when the accused successfully overcomes this presumption of malice, the accuser has another chance to win a conviction: he can prove "malice in fact" or "actual malice"—such as, the accused bears ill will and has ill motives in writing and publishing the sordid truth about him. That's "freedom of the press"?

Why is our libel law written and interpreted in such a way? Because it was copied from the libel law that was written during the American colonization of the Philippines, when there were plenty of "pamphleteers" who would write and publish pamphlets attacking their enemies. The attacks were usually "settled" through violence—when the pamphleteers' victims challenged their tormentors to duels, which, in turn, caused public alarm and scandal. So the founding fathers passed the libel law as a public crime—not as a private crime even though libel was an offense against the reputation of the complainant—so that aggrieved parties could sue their attackers in court instead of challenging them to duels.

But what about the tradition of including in a libel complaint almost everybody in the "accused" publication's staff? The pamphlets or newspapers in colonial times were very small business operations where the reporter usually also served as the editor and publisher. And even if they were separate personalities, it was logical to include the two of them in the complaint because they saw all the stories before the printing or publication.

But it would be illogical to include everybody in the staff now when many big-city newspapers are half-a-foot thick. It would be impossible for even a dozen editors to read all the stories that go into their newspapers now. Therefore, including in a libel complaint all the editors or publishers who most likely did not see the offending story before publication, together with all those listed in the staff box, is not only illogical, it is also unfair and is a failure of justice. Guilt should attach only to those who participate in an illegal act.

What am I driving at? That the present libel law is already obsolete and out of sync with reality. It should, therefore, be amended to remove the presumption of malice that runs counter to our Bill of Rights.

It's still 'Hello Garci'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"HELLO GARCI WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN," predicts Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz. That is so in the light of the Comelec resolution to limit the role of the military in elections. No more will soldiers take part in counting and canvassing votes, choosing precincts, transporting ballot boxes and carrying election materials and results. Henceforth, they will merely man checkpoints and enforce the gun ban. And only 10 percent of them will be involved where before the entire 125,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines was.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos agrees enthusiastically: "Garci is gone, there will be no more Garci." He adds jokingly, "There will only be 'Hello Brawnie'," in reference to Romeo Brawner, a newly appointed Comelec commissioner.

So all's well that ends well?

Not really. All sucks that ends badly.

I grant that limiting the military's role in elections can have tremendous salutary effects. Especially given that today's AFP is controlled by the generals mentioned in the Hello Garci tapes as having cheated for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, chief of them Hermogenes Esperon. They were all rewarded, and not punished, for that monstrous act of infamy. But limiting the AFP's role in elections won't exorcise Garci from the face of this earth, or even come close to it.

Lest we forget, there's an exchange in the "Hello Garci" tape, where GMA worried about not getting enough votes in some parts of Muslim Mindanao and Garci responded by saying, as you know Ma'am the military isn't really good at rigging things, "*di gaano marunong gumawa*," but that generally speaking the effort to pad her votes was being executed well, "*yung hong pagpatataas sa inyo maayos ho naman.*" That is a breathtakingly revealing statement in more ways than one. The least of what it reveals is that the soldiers are not the Einsteins of cheating in elections, people like Garci and his boss, GMA herself, are.

Lest we forget too, it was people like Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan who tried earnestly and desperately to stop cheating in their areas of jurisdiction. For his pains, Gudani was told to go on a paid vacation, to relax on a beach or go mountain hiking, which would have been temptation enough for a lesser man, but which he himself took to be the punishment that it was. If I recall right, in the same "Hello Garci" tape, one senatorial candidate referred to him as "*tarantado talaga*." This was after Garci told him there was little he could do for him as Gudani was bent on keeping the elections clean. There, too, you find something breathtakingly revealing: In this country, people who are determined to be honest are an affront to high office, they are *tarantado talaga*.

Both Gudani and Balutan went over and beyond the call of decency and went on to tell the Senate what they knew about the cheating in the last elections. For which pains they were court-martialed for defying GMA's order forbidding any subordinate—as though Gudani and Balutan could ever be that by any moral standard—from testifying against her without her permission. What can I say? *Tarantado talaga*. I leave you to determine whom that judgment properly applies to.

Why on earth should limiting the military's participation in elections stop another "Hello Garci" from happening? The "Hello Garci" tape wasn't a conversation between military officials or between a candidate and a military official, it was a conversation between two civilians. It was a conversation between GMA and Virgilio Garcillano, between the incumbent-president-cum-presidential-candidate and a Comelec commissioner, at the height of the counting of votes—a conversation that by all the rules of God and man, democracy and decency, should never have taken place. It was as much an "impropriety" as the lawyer of the accused in a court case barging into the judge's quarters and being assured by the judge in the most obsequious terms that her case is won. What has that got to do with the role of the military in elections?

At bottom, what is the "Hello Garci" tape all about? It is all about cheating. It is all about the highest official of the land conspiring with a Comelec commissioner to screw the voters, and not quite incidentally kidnapping a public school teacher to prevent her from squealing on the cheating. That can't be prevented from happening again by limiting the participation of the military in elections. That can't be prevented from happening again by putting the public school teachers solely in charge of elections, which will only succeed in overworking while underpaying them. That can't even be prevented from happening again even by computerizing the elections, though that should have been done long ago. Except that Abalos, who now jokes about cheating, cheated the taxpayers by awarding the bid to an unqualified bidder.

That can be prevented, as all iniquity can be prevented, by righting wrongs, by punishing the guilty and rewarding the innocent, by showing the world that nobody gets away with murder. People get away with the murder of the soul, they will get away with the murder of the body. People get away with the murder of democracy, they will get away with the murder of people. The only way to stop "Hello Garci" from happening all over again is to jail Hello and Garci. You allow them to reap the fruits of their malefaction, you might as well have a law ordering all honest men in this country to carry a sign that says, "*Tarantado talaga ako.*" You allow Hello to continue being president of this country and Garci to seek a seat in Congress next year, you might as well prepare yourself for a ring tone that keeps repeating again and again and again like the Eveready battery:

"Hello Garci, Hello Garci, Hello Garci."

The battle over billboards

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IF YOU WERE MUSSOLINI, YOU COULD SOLVE the problem posed by billboards at one fell swoop. Just ban all billboards. And if you are one whose car was crushed, or whose son was pinned to death or seriously maimed by a flying billboard, you might cheer Mussolini. But because you are not Mussolini, you will have to deal with some obstacles facing billboard regulation.

Billboards are property and definitely property is subject to regulation. Billboards are also a form of speech. So you will have to deal with the distinctions and sub-distinctions related to the regulation of speech. Billboards might contain political speech urging support for initiative and referendum or a senatorial candidate. They might also contain religious speech. Political speech and religious speech enjoy the highest form of constitutional protection. But even mere commercial speech enjoys a degree of constitutional protection. Regulations will have to be tailored in a manner that does not impinge any protected right.

None of these factors, however, present insurmountable obstacles to rational regulation of billboards. First of all, the current campaign against billboards is not so much against what they say as against where they are and how they are built. If place and quality of construction are the only factors, regulation can easily be justified. The State is sufficiently armed with police power which enables it to protect the health and safety of the public. Protection of life and limb is a perfectly valid basis for regulation or even prohibition.

Can aesthetics, however, be the basis for regulation or prohibition? The question has an interesting history. We do have a 1918 Supreme Court decision which upheld the validity of a statutory provision authorizing the Collector of Internal Revenue to remove any sign, signboard or billboard found by him to be offensive to the sight or otherwise a nuisance! The Court argued: "Without entering into the realm of psychology, we think it quite demonstrable that sight is as valuable to a human being as any of his other senses, and that the proper ministration to this sense conduces as much to his contentment as the care bestowed upon the senses of hearing and smell, and probably as much as both together." To the objection that aesthetic tastes are a tricky lot, the Court answered that "the prevailing morality or strong and preponderating opinion demands such legislation." But, as can be seen, aesthetics had to be linked with the health of the eye. Can aesthetics stand alone as basis for regulation?

Time was when aesthetics was rejected as a basis for the use of police power. A new Jersey Court put it this way: "Aesthetic considerations are a mater of luxury and indulgence rather than of necessity, and it is necessity alone which justifies the exercise of police power." And a California Court said: "We find that the one ground upon which the town council may be thought to have acted is that appearance of billboards is, or may be, offensive to the sight of persons of refined taste . . . . It has never been held that these considerations alone justify, as an exercise of police power, a radical restriction of an owner of property to use his property in an ordinary and beneficial way."

Gradually, however, "persons of refined taste" slowly gained ground by pairing considerations of aesthetics with health, safety and morals, as our Court did in 1918. Thus, Justice Pound was quoted as saying: "Beauty may not be queen, but she is not an outcast beyond the pale of protection or respect. She may at least shelter herself under the wing of safety, morality or decency."

Progress was further made in 1935 through a law which disallowed billboards that blocked the view of areas of scenic beauty. A Massachusetts court said: "We think that the preservation of scenic beauty and places of historical interest would be of sufficient support [for advertising regulation]. Considerations of taste and fitness may be a proper basis for action in granting and denying permits for locations for advertising devices."

(Alas, however, an ordinance passed by the town council of my own hometown prohibiting structures that would block the view of our town plaza was struck down by our Supreme Court! It wasn't much of a plaza anyway! But at least my town made it to the Philippine Reports!)

Finally, aesthetics came to its own in 1954 when the US Supreme Court said: "The concept of public welfare is broad and inclusive . . . . The values it represents are spiritual as well as physical, aesthetic as well as monetary. It is within the power of the legislature to determine that the community should be beautiful as well as healthy, spacious as well as clean, well balanced as well as carefully patrolled."

State courts soon followed, among them a New York court which ruled: "We accept beauty as a proper community objective, attainable through the use of police power. We are mindful of the reasoning of most courts that have upheld the validity of ordinances regulating outdoor advertising and of the need felt by them to some basis in economics, health, safety or even morality. We do not feel so constrained." And a Massachusetts court said: "The issue clearly before us is whether the town bylaws, enacted primarily or solely for aesthetic reasons, are within the scope of the police power. We conclude that aesthetics alone may justify the exercise of police power; that within the broad concept of 'general welfare,' cities and towns may enact reasonable billboard regulation designed to preserve and improve their physical environment." *(To be continued)*

Peoples' Lawyers in the time of war on terror

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

IT MAY BE PURE HAPPENSTANCE THAT AT THE beginning of the 3rd Congress of the International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) that was held in Davao City, bombs exploded, then killed and maimed hapless civilians in Mindanao, as in the past years. The congress—the first time it was held in the country—was attended by lawyers, law students and legal workers from Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Afghanistan, Turkey, Brazil, India and the Philippines. Its main theme focused on the role of lawyers in defending the democratic rights of the people, especially those caught in the so-called "war without borders"—a war being promoted by the Western countries led by the United States.

Yet, I venture to say that it was not just pure coincidence that these "terrorist acts"—like phantoms violently visiting the island every now and then—once again thrust Mindanao island into the headlines, albeit in a bad light. The recent bombings in the cities of Tacurong, Cotabato and the town of Makilala, North Cotabato resurrected the nightmares of at least "33 mysterious bombings" in the island since 2001, including the ones that hit the Davao International Airport and the Davao Sasa Wharf in March and April 2003, respectively.

Those bombings happened when peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were in a crucial stage, and while, in other parts of the of the country, dissent against the Arroyo administration was brewing and spreading due to massive corruption and failed governance. The military and other hawks in the Arroyo administration were then quick in putting the responsibility for the bombings on the MILF or on the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah. At that time, too, the government was also pushing for the passage of an anti-terror bill, not without much prodding from the United States and its allies, like Australia and the United Kingdom. It was the time when that fellow named George W. Bush declared Mindanao as the "second front" in the "war on terrorism" after Afghanistan.

As it was then, it is also happening now. There is an impasse in the 10-year-old Malaysian-brokered talks between the Philippine government and the MILF after another round of failed meetings last month in Kuala Lumpur. Hawkish government officials immediately blamed the MILF and its alleged "foreign terrorist allies" as the perpetrators of the bombings. Other military officers also claimed that the bombings were retaliatory moves by the Abu Sayyaf which, curiously, for a long time now, remains active in the islands of Jolo and Basilan, despite the massive presence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines there, not to mention the now "permanent" visits of US forces in those provinces.

Again, the bombings happened at a time when the present administration was on survival mode, even as it was endlessly hounded by issues like the lack of legitimacy, massive corruption amid its unabashed efforts to cling to power through Charter change. The bombings also came at a time when the administration's popularity was at its lowest, both here and abroad, following the unabated political killings and forced disappearances that targeted mostly members of the militant and progressive groups, journalists, lawyers, human rights activists and church leaders, like the late Bishop Alberto Ramento.

More importantly, I must point out that the recent bombings in Mindanao occurred at a time when the Arroyo administration is once again zealously rushing the passage of an anti-terror bill that carries draconian provisions that will surely impact on the fundamental rights of Filipinos. The country reports made by the various delegations to the IAPL congress reveal a familiar tone: the post 9/11 anti-terror laws passed by different countries are more designed to criminalize opposition to and political dissent from the existing world order dictated by the United States and its allies.

In the guise of waging a war on terrorism, flagrant violations of the people's fundamental rights are now considered as "normal" even by countries that claimed to be bastions of democratic values. Indeed, it is sickening to hear reports on the presence of isolation cells in Turkey, the use of torture in Iraq and Afghanistan, the use of secret prisons in Europe and the Middle East and the United States where suspected "terrorists" are indefinitely detained without trial. Added to that is the unabated political killings in the country today.

To the lawyers who attended the IAPL Congress last week, this statement from Samina, a law student from Afghanistan, practically summed up their sentiments: "Yet, the biggest question that must be asked: who created these terrorists? It is mainly the US and its interventionist policies."

Edre Olalia, the newly elected IAPL president told his colleagues: "That is the biggest challenge (facing) the people's lawyers all over the world. Not only that we have to defend and advance the fundamental rights of our respective peoples, we must also expose the real agenda behind the so-called war on terrorism promoted by the US, and frustrate in all possible legal means its further expansion."

* * *

Comments at kar_laws@yahoo.com or karlos_z23@hotmail.com

Fallen shepherd

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON THE NIGHT HE DIED, THE STREET CHILdren disappeared. They had been a constant presence; but in his final hours, they were nowhere to be found. Days after his death, they still won't speak of what happened. But then, what is there to say? On a couple of occasions he had pointed out, to one of his sons, footprints in the dust in the vicinity of his improvised room: signs of surveillance, if not of frustrated attempts to do to him what was eventually done. There had been menacing messages, warnings. All the signs of an impending personal catastrophe were there. And he knew it: "I know they are going to kill me next, but never will I abandon my duty to God and my ministry to the people."

The morning he died was the day he was due to go home to visit his family. He lived most of the week according to the austere circumstances of a missionary. His younger son described to me how the blood spatter on the wall beside his father's bed indicated that his father had been stabbed while sleeping; how it seems his father had gotten up, and tried to get away, though mortally wounded; and how his killers had kept vigil over him in his fatal, final moments, stabbing him further with deliberation, and then wounding his lifeless corpse some more, to give the impression there had been a struggle.

But there wasn't; there were no bruises to show he had been pinned down, or had come to grips with his attackers. Neither were there convincing signs of robbery: a DVD player of the cheapest quality had been stolen days before, but then there were other signs (the footprints in the dust) of other prior entries. His wallet was emptied of a small amount of cash—though it was left almost theatrically beside the corpse—and an envelope with a far larger amount, representing the tithes of his bishopric, was left in the pocket of the pants he was wearing when he died. If they were robbers cool and collected enough to have stabbed him with virtually surgical precision, and who clinically hovered over him as he painfully staggered away from them, only to stab him some more, as if enjoying in prolonging his suffering; if they had really been intent on robbery to the extent of conducting such extended surveillance—then the robbery would have been complete. But it wasn't.

The authorities, of course, made a grand production of appearing to do something. The scene of the murder was cordoned off. The police entered the room, shooed everyone away. When they departed, two hours later, the murder scene was littered with their cast-off gloves and cups of coffee. They threw open the murder scene to a curious public and proceeded to hold press conferences. So intent were they on dominating the news cycle, that they neither waited for his family to appear on the scene, nor permitted more than one person to accompany them as they went through the initial motions of an investigation.

The autopsy of his body revealed that the fatal wound had been inflicted with a metal instrument closest in size and sharpness to a bayonet (based on the size of the wound), and how it had pierced his chest and his heart. There were collateral wounds made by what might have been a kitchen knife. But the distribution of the wounds were not the random stabbings that characterize sudden confrontations (as between a man who surprises panicky robbers): the larger, lethal ones were precise, and inflicted either when the victim was lying down, or staggering away from his assailants.

His death leaves many questions, but the largest question of all is why he had to die because he dared to ask difficult questions of his fellow Christians. Though it may be that his decision to bear witness to a Christianity that found nothing incompatible between faith in God and his country, his accessibility to people from all walks of life and his fierce and unyielding bias for the poor, were in themselves an intolerable reproach to the authorities. And so he had to die.

Fully, and truly, did Bishop Alberto Ramento live the words in the Gospel of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." And so complete was his faith—which means, after all, surrender to the will of God—that he serenely saw his approaching death, and did not flinch. In this manner, this modern man of faith strove to bear witness to the martyrs of early Christian times. As his fellow believers must do now, in an age of persecution.

* * *

I understand that two ladies have taken exception to descriptions of them in this column, either as written or reproduced by me: Evelyn Kilayco (whom I called a "Palace cheerleader") and Rowena Bengzon (recently described in unflattering terms by a blog commenter I quoted in this space). It is their wish that their respective advocacies should be viewed as based on principle; and that any effort to debate or question them on what they espouse should be kept to the realm of ideas, and should not involve the hurtful personalizing of the issues. Kilayco asserts she is not motivated by blind loyalty or personal closeness to the Palace; Bengzon maintains hers is a sincere advocacy. It would be a dereliction of duty not to note their objections, or endorse their request.

* * *

Tomorrow on "The Explainer" on ANC, 6 to 7 p.m.: North Korea.

MBG in education

(The following are excerpts from a speech delivered at the recently concluded Basic Education Forum organized by the League of Corporate Foundations and the Philippine Business for Education.)

COMMENTARY

Marilou G. Erni

THERE CAN BE NO ARGUMENT THAT THE SUPREME value of education lies in the fact that it can ensure a better future for our children and provide a lasting solution to end poverty.

Our government's education executives—represented by no less than Education Secretary Jesli Lapus—and the private sector have both shown unflagging commitment to promote education.

Yet, despite our noble intentions, we continue to face the challenge of drawing out from our respective actions better, more measurable and lasting results that will truly make a difference in the lives of our fellow Filipinos.

Earlier, my colleague Chito Sobrepeña of the Metrobank Foundation talked about "57-75," a multisectoral campaign that aims to raise within five years the National Achievement Test average to 75 percent.

Mr. Sobrepeña also mentioned "The Minimum Basket of Goods"—or the MBG—which is an important component of 57-75. The MBG is simply a set of sustainable programs, initiatives and private sector interventions meant to improve the quality of our country's public education.

A discussion of the MBGs raises the following questions:

First, how can we harness our limited resources in effectively supporting the goal of providing quality education for all?

Next, how can we go beyond our individual efforts and take collective action in coming up with a strategic response?

And finally, how can we ensure that our collaborative efforts will lead to the results we aim to achieve?

We talk about investing in education. How have we in the business community quantified our support to it?

Since 2002, the League of Corporate Foundations reported that the private sector has championed poverty reduction as its main Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agenda, with consolidated social investments amounting to some P7.4 billion.

From July 2005 to June 2006 alone, private sector commitment to poverty alleviation stood at P2.4 billion, with half the amount spent on education initiatives. Undoubtedly, ensuring quality education for all continues to be on top of everyone's agenda.

Despite this, our efforts remain just a small slice of a very big pie. Just consider that the Department of Education needs P120 billion to fund the entire education system for this school year alone.

These investments represent the "Minimum Basket of Goods," or the basic programs that are needed to support quality public education. The private sector has been making substantial investments to building schools and other infrastructure, providing scholarships, supporting teacher development and learning strategies and coming up with other support programs, such as health and nutrition.

In fact, the DepEd has included these initiatives into the new Adopt-A-School packages, giving them the DepEd "seal of approval."

These programs were ranged against a stringent set of criteria inspired by the World Bank's "Panibagong Paraan" (New Way) project and jointly agreed upon by the technical working group of the private sector, LCF and the DepEd.

The first criterion is innovation and community participation, where the project must present non-conventional approaches to addressing education challenges.

Second, the project must be scalable and replicable.

Third is potential impact. The project should be able to provide indications of actual or potential effects or benefits for the intended beneficiaries within the project period. A good example would be improvements in the quality of education based on the problem being addressed (higher NAT scores, less dropouts).

We cannot overemphasize the fact that the private sector is very much open, eager and willing to provide support in various forms. But we are also eager to see results.

With this backdrop, let's talk about the LCF's CSR roadmap, which is actually the consolidated response of the business sector to fight poverty through education.

The CSR roadmap focuses on the basic education reform agenda, which includes school improvement and student development, teacher training and development, development of learning strategies, enhancement of support systems and health and nutrition programs. Note that most private sector initiatives cluster around scholarships and infrastructure.

The roadmap is a virtual template that allows for participation in the implementation of the CSR program at different levels. It enables us to share best practices and serves as a strategic tool to identify, measure, monitor and bridge the gaps in addressing education-related issues.

All projects—big or small—have a place in this roadmap. Through this, we are providing companies a way to connect to the goals, based upon an assessment of the resource gaps.

To be truly relevant and sustainable, we are setting targets, milestones and metrics for the roadmap. And guided by these metrics, we aim to make a public accounting, on a yearly basis, of our accomplishments versus our performance measures.

And so we now ask—what next?

Clearly, we need to find out what exactly should comprise the MBG, and we have to arrive at some way to redirect private-sector giving to areas that the DepEd has identified as "priority resource gaps."

The questions that I raised earlier show that widespread cooperation is vital to the success of 57-75.

We, therefore, propose the organization of a joint DepEd-private sector secretariat to oversee the efficient, effective and transparent operations of making quality education for all a national priority and a source of national pride.

I call on everyone to make this endeavor a success.

Let us help erase ignorance. Let us help sharpen our children's minds. Let us help rewrite the future. The magnitude of the challenges we face is such that government alone cannot meet them.

Let us all prioritize education.

Marilou G. Erni is the president of the League of Corporate Foundations and the executive director of Petron Foundation. She is also a member of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Stakeholder Council.

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Metro Manila

The Melo Commission show

I DOUBT IF THE MELO COMMISSION CAN deliver justice to the victims of the extrajudicial killings in our country and their families. The commission was formed last Aug. 21. It's more than a month now and I still have to see something happening. The fact is, despite its existence, the extrajudicial killings of activists continue.

It now appears to me that the commission, headed by former Supreme Court Justice Jose A.R. Melo, was created just to give the impression to the international community that the Arroyo administration is doing its part to solve the killings. But the commission's investigation could even lead to a whitewash.

The Melo Commission is duplicating the functions of the Commission on Human Rights, a constitutional body. I am dismayed that the first thing the Melo Commission did was to hear the testimony of the military and police officials. The first body that the President created to investigate the killings was Task Force Usig of the Philippine National Police. The task force failed even to unmask the masterminds and from its findings, the government could not make progress in the prosecution of the cases.

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I doubt the impartiality of the Melo Commission and its power to protect the witnesses.

—BRO. GILBERT S. BILLENA, O.Carm, brobert2006@yahoo.com

PCGG's record under Yorac argues vs its abolition

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO NEAL H. CRUZ'S column "Why not just abolish the PCGG?" (PDI, 9/18/06)

I would like to point out and educate Cruz that the recovery of the $684-million Swiss bank deposits of the Marcoses would not have been possible if not for the untiring efforts, hard work, sheer dedication and unquestionable legal expertise of my late sister and former PCGG Chair Haydee B. Yorac. This amount was intended to compensate victims of human rights violations during martial law and also to implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Sad to say, portions of the amount mysteriously disappeared before and after the 2004 elections. No one could give the real reason behind the disappearance.

My late sister instituted a wide-ranging series of reforms and set high standards of work ethic and culture in every government office assigned to her. Under her stewardship, the PCGG achieved and earned major victories in both local and foreign courts. The Sandiganbayan in July 2003 declared that the contested shares of stock of FUB/UCPB are owned by the farmers as the true and beneficial owners. The anti-graft court also declared that the government owns the millions of shares acquired through the coconut levy funds.

What else can Cruz not see regarding the late Haydee B. Yorac's four-year sterling performance as PCGG chair? Is this a deliberate attempt by Cruz to ignore Yorac's accomplishments as PCGG chair or is Cruz just color blind and playful, perhaps?

—MARGOT B. YORAC, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Why there has been no SSS pension increase

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF Eligio Pastorin (PDI, 9/27/06) who described the interest deductions on Social Security System (SSS) salary loans as anti-poor. And he said it is only the present administration that has failed to give pensioners a pension increase.

The interest deduction on the first year of the loan is part of the SSS' operational reforms. Prior to its implementation in March 2004, our Return on Investment from salary loans ranged from 3 to 4 percent, which was below market rates. Under the SSS Charter, SSS investment earnings must be equivalent to prevailing market rates, based on the bellwether Treasury bill rates.

The 1-percent service fee covers administrative expenses such as IT system maintenance, check printing and mailing. The fee is standard practice among lending agencies, banks and financial institutions, including the Government Service Insurance System. Unlike other financial institutions, the SSS does not charge an application fee.

We don't object to a pension increase, but the SSS is not prepared to grant it at this time. Based on the calculations of our actuarial department, a one-time 10 percent increase to more than 1 million pensioners would amount to an additional annual disbursement of P34.7 billion. This would be a tremendous strain to the long-term viability of the SSS if done without the corollary increase in contribution rates.

The SSS operates a scaled-premium benefit system. Any increase in benefits should be matched with a corresponding hike in contributions. The present 9.4-percent contribution rate would have to be increased to 9.7 percent to support a 10-percent hike in pensions.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president, Media Affairs Department, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, QC

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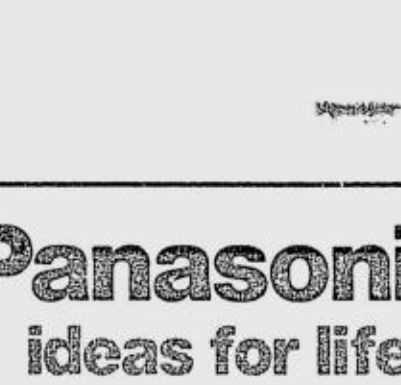

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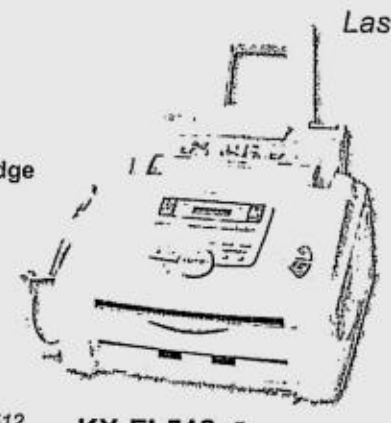

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PBA tickets controlled by scalpers?

BECAUSE MY WIFE AND SON wanted to see their basketball idols in person, I bought them tickets for the Oct. 1 opening ceremony of the PBA at the Araneta Coliseum. I called up the Ticketnet office on Sept. 26 and Sept. 27. On both instances, the ladies I talked to told me that no tickets for the lower box were being sold yet. On Sept. 28, a Friday, I again called 9115555 but, to my dismay, the lady on the other end of the line told me that all tickets for the lower box had been sold out since Sept. 22. How did it happen? Are the people in Ticketnet liars?

Anyway, because I really wanted to give my son and my wife the enjoyment of seeing their idols in person, I was forced to buy three patron gallery tickets. When we arrived at the venue, my son couldn't contain his excitement as he dragged me toward our seats. But, to my surprise, our seats had been given to "members" of the media, we were told.

Assuming they were indeed members of the media, didn't the PBA consider that I had paid for those seats for that particular time? I would have appreciated it had they told me in advance that those seats were not available anymore so that I didn't have to spend a considerable amount of money to pay for the seats that were not given us.

These are two things PBA Commissioner Noli Eala should look into if he is really bent on bringing the PBA closer to the people and "Bringing the Pride Back" to the league:

1. Check on the people selling the tickets because they might be selling it to "regular scalpers."
2. Make sure that the paying public gets what is due them.

—JOSE L. CUYA, jlc_claret@yahoo.com

Lacson's stand on nursing exam mess

IN CONRADO DE QUIROS' COLumn "Cheating" (PDI, 10/10/06), my quote was touted as a vindication of the President's way of resolving the nursing exam controversy.

Such is not the case.

The praise that I seemingly gave Malacañang was made in the context of its past actions on matters of local and international importance—where, in gung-ho fashion, it would intrude into the autonomy of other government branches over concerns within their domains. Rarely has Malacañang treated with caution a situation with possible populist, socio-politico and economic spins. Having treated the nursing exam scandal so, that alone deserves some form of kudos, and that was the spirit on which my commendation was founded.

I agree with De Quiros on the key points he discussed in that column, and I appreciate that he acknowledged my stand. I am also taking this opportunity to expound on his main premise by including the following measures: deferring to the appellate court which is now studying the resolution; and ensuring a retake if, and only if, all questions have been satisfactorily answered and all culpable parties have been dealt with in a satisfactory fashion.

—SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON

The President's worst nightmare

FOR A TIME, GLORIA MACAPAgal-Arroyo was truly caught between a rock and a hard place in the nursing licensure exam mess.

When she ordered a retake, she infuriated thousands of nursing graduates who passed without cheating.

When she ordered "no-retake," she dimmed the overseas job prospects of these same graduates, and endangered the flow of dollar remittances which keep the economy afloat.

But her worst nightmare was if she had to finally order a retake, she would have pissed off her personal dentist, Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero. And the next time GMA would have to go to her for a root canal treatment, the President would have been dead meat.

—JIMMY S. ONG, 13 San Mateo, Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

'What he wants is what North Korea gets'

SEOUL—HE RULES THE LAST STALINIST dictatorship, starving his own people and thumbing his nose at the rest of the world—and now he claims to have done the unthinkable by testing an atom bomb.

But is North Korea's Kim Jong-Il the nuclear-armed madman many in the West portray him to be?

"He hasn't invaded any other countries," says Peter Beck, a Korea expert from the International Crisis Group, offering a pointed comparison to Kim's foe, US President George W. Bush.

"He has been shrewd enough to stay in power this long," Beck says. "The fact is that he has been in power for longer than Bush senior and junior combined."

Kim formally assumed control of North Korea in 1997, taking the reins of one of the world's most isolated and impoverished nations, which had previously been led by his father Kim Il-Sung.

Like his father, the 64-year-old developed an intense cult of personality, using propaganda, prison camps and a massive army to win God-like devotion from the North Korean people—who risk execution if they ever try to defect.

11 holes-in-one

From the rainbows that appeared over the sacred mountain where he was said to be born, to his 11 holes-in-one in a single round of golf, the official story of his life is steeped in myths of wisdom and greatness.

Yet many analysts say the portrait of Kim that has emerged outside his hermit regime, pieced together from scraps provided by the few people able to get into (or out of) the North, is nearly as flawed.

His reputation as a cognac-guzzling playboy, with an appetite for fine dining and even finer women, belies a tough-minded political realist who has been able to defy the will of the superpower United States.

"The myth in the outside world is of this totally weird playboy. The real man is politically very shrewd," according to Michael Breen, author of a biography of the man known by North Koreans as the Dear Leader.

Playing weak hand well

"He has that North Korean skill of playing a weak hand well," Breen said in an interview with AFP earlier this year. "This is not a crazy or deluded man."

Officially Kim was born on Feb. 16, 1942, at sacred Mount Paekdu. But independent experts say he was born in a guerrilla camp in Russia where his father was fighting Japanese forces who had colonized the Korean peninsula.

After graduating in 1964 from university—named, like so much else in North Korea, after his father—Kim began his climb through the ranks of the Workers' Party of Korea.

His rise reportedly included the planning of terror attacks nearly two decades before the events of Sept. 11, 2001 unleashed the US-led "war on terror" which Washington says is a key reason for pressuring Kim's regime.

He was said to be involved in planning a 1983 bombing in Burma (Myanmar) that killed 17 South Koreans, as well as the 1987 bombing of a Korean Air jet that killed all 115 people on board.

His father died in 1994 but retained the title of president for life, and Kim waited three years before formally assuming the reins of power.

During the 1990s, the country was hit by a famine that left hundreds of thousands, and possibly millions, dead. Reports emerged of the starving poor reduced to chewing on the bark of trees to stay alive.

People who managed to escape across the border into China, only to be repatriated, are believed to have been tortured or executed upon return. Relatives of defectors are often treated harshly.

Breen's biography, "Kim Jong-Il: North Korea's Dear Leader," details a gulag of prison camps and an atmosphere of total paranoia, where schoolchildren learn maths by adding and subtracting numbers of dead US soldiers. *AFP*

IN THE KNOW

UN Security Council resolution

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A draft resolution Saturday calling for wide-ranging sanctions against North Korea over its declared nuclear test. Here are the main points of the text:

The Security Council:

- Condemns the nuclear test proclaimed by the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea—the official name for North Korea) on 9 October 2006 in flagrant disregard of its relevant resolutions.

Demands that the DPRK:

- Not conduct any further nuclear test or launch of a ballistic missile.
- Return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
- Abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Decides also that the DPRK shall abandon all other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic misslie programs.

Decides that all member states shall prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the DPRK of:

- Any battle tank, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems.
- All items, materials, equipment, goods and technology ... which could contribute to the DPRK's nuclear-related, ballistic missile-related or other weapons of mass destruction-related programs.
- Luxury goods.

All member states shall ... freeze immediately the funds, other financial assets and economic resources ... that are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the persons or entities engaged in or providing support for ... DPRK's nuclear related, other weapons of mass destruction related and ballistic missile-related programs.

In order to ensure compliance of this paragraph, and thereby preventing illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, all member states are called upon to take in, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, cooperative action including through inspection of cargo to and from the DPRK, as necessary.

The Security Council:

- Calls upon all member states to report to the Security Council within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution on the steps they have taken with a view to implementing effectively the provisions.
- Welcomes and encourages further the efforts by all states concerned to intensify their diplomatic efforts, to refrain from any actions that might aggravate tension and to facilitate the early resumption of the six-party talks.
- Calls upon the DPRK to return immediately to the six-party talks without precondition. *AFP*

Security Council OKs ...

From page A1

sador, Wang Guangya, said China would not participate in the inspection regime because it would create "conflict that could have serious implications for the region."

15-0 vote

The 15-0 vote reflected the immediate global alarm that such a weapon could wind up in the hands of terrorists or other rogue states.

After the vote, John R. Bolton, the American ambassador, insisted that China was bound by the resolution's terms and would have to find a way to comply with the inspections. "I can't believe that China won't adhere to obligations that the Security Council has imposed," he said.

Pak Gil Yon, the ambassador of North Korea, told the council that his government "totally rejected" the resolution. He said that if the United States continued to "increase pressure" on North Korea, his government would consider it a declaration of war and take "critical countermeasures."

In addition to the sanctions and search regime, the resolution demands that North Korea abandon its illicit weapons programs and rejoin the nonproliferation treaty, and it calls on the government to return to the six-nation talks involving South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and the United States.

Bolton said, "We think this represents essentially what the United States was asking for when it circulated its draft resolution on Monday."

Tougher moves

Japan yesterday said it was not only moving to enact the UN sanctions but also considering stricter measures of its own.

"We are already considering them, and we want to make a final decision," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said.

Abe added that Japan could support US forces inspecting cargo going in and out of the North, Kyodo News agency reported, the most recent sign of the new leader's pledge to give his country a more assertive role on the world stage.

Australia welcomed new UN sanctions as "surprisingly tough," and is likewise considering even stronger measures of its own, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.

Australia, along with Japan a key US ally in the Asia-Pacific region, has strongly backed a stiff international response to the North's claimed nuclear test last Monday, which Canberra said threatens regional stability.

China-North Korea border

But China said it won't conduct any inspections, and its UN envoy called for caution.

"China strongly urges the countries concerned to adopt a prudent and responsible attitude in this regard and refrain from taking any provocative steps that may intensify the tensions," Wang said.

The Chinese border with North Korea appeared quiet, and no inspections were apparent, the Associated Press reported.

An official who would give only his family name, Wang, said he had not received any new instructions for inspections at Nanping, a border town, adding things had "been normal the past few days."

At Tumen, another city, the officer on duty said the inspections office was closed on Sunday and he was "unclear" about the situation.

Calls to the Dandong checkpoint were referred to the cargo inspection division, where a man hung up the phone after refusing to answer questions.

Seoul mum on details

South Korea—which has taken a conciliatory approach to the North, including supplying massive amounts of aid—said it will honor the UN resolution but did not elaborate on its plans for inspections.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, also issued a statement pledging to take "necessary steps" to implement the UN resolution.

However, the ministry didn't give further details whether the necessary steps included action on a tourism venture and a joint industrial complex in the North.

Critics have urged the South Korean government to halt the two cash cow projects, saying that they may be diverted for the North's nuclear weapons program.

Russia pushes talks

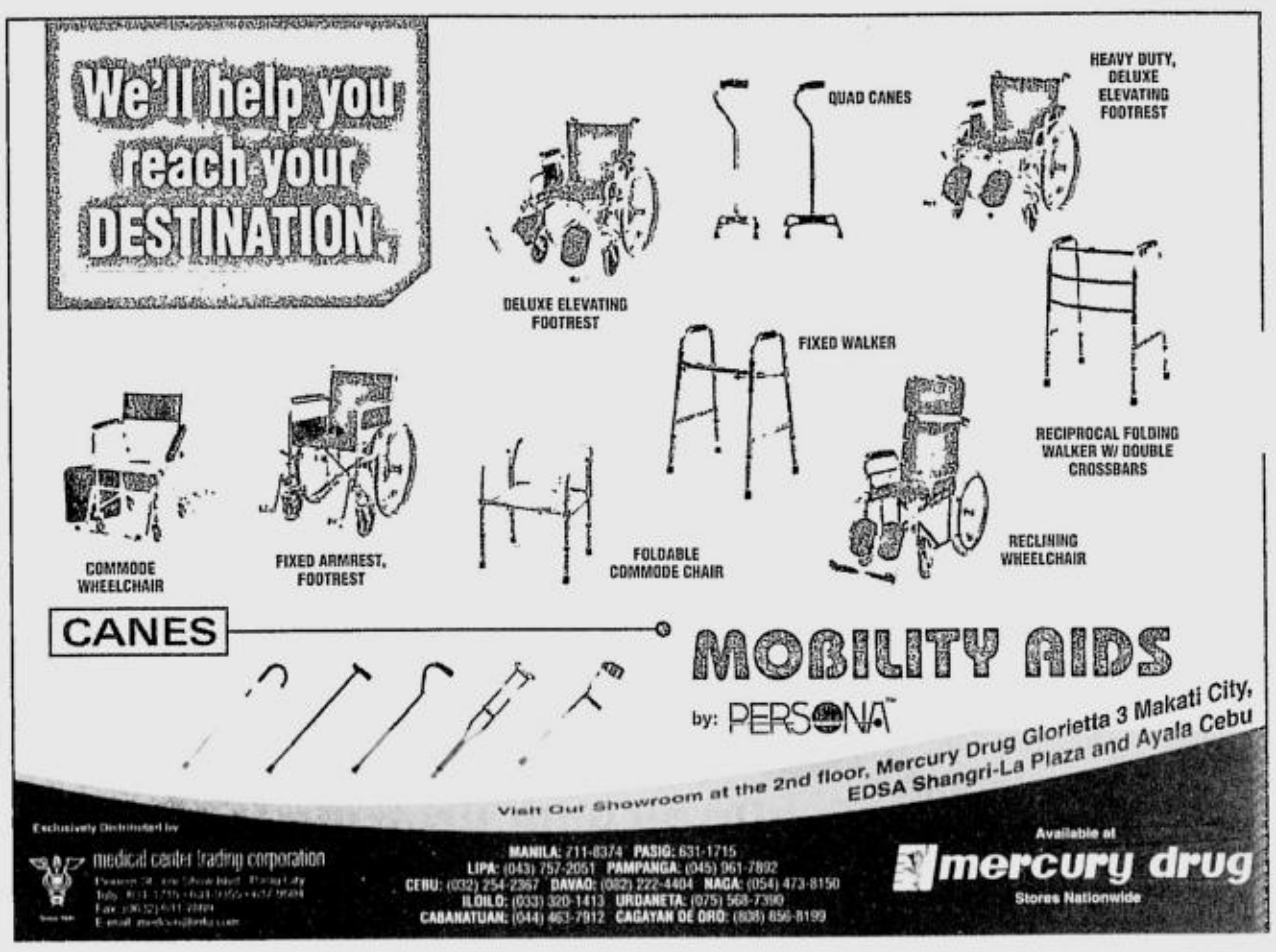
Also yesterday, Russian nuclear envoy Alexander Alexeyev arrived in South Korea for meetings on the nuclear standoff. Alexeyev visited North Korea last week, the first senior foreign official known to have traveled there since North Korea's Oct. 9 test.

Alexeyev declined to tell reporters upon his arrival at Seoul's Incheon International Airport if he carried any message from the North.

When asked if he thought North Korea would return to the international arms talks it has boycotted since November, Alexeyev answered: "I hope."

The next UN secretary general, currently the foreign minister of South Korea, welcomed the resolution. Ban Ki-moon said the resolution sent a "very clear, strong and unified message" that Pyongyang's claimed nuclear test was unacceptable.

But Ban cautioned it was important North Korea be engaged in dialogue and not simply punished through sanctions. *Reports from New York Times, AP*



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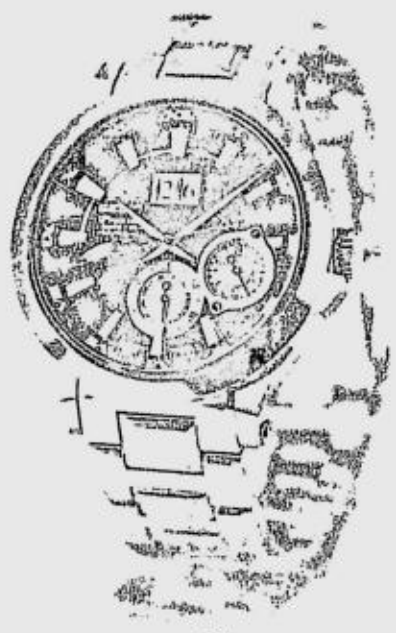

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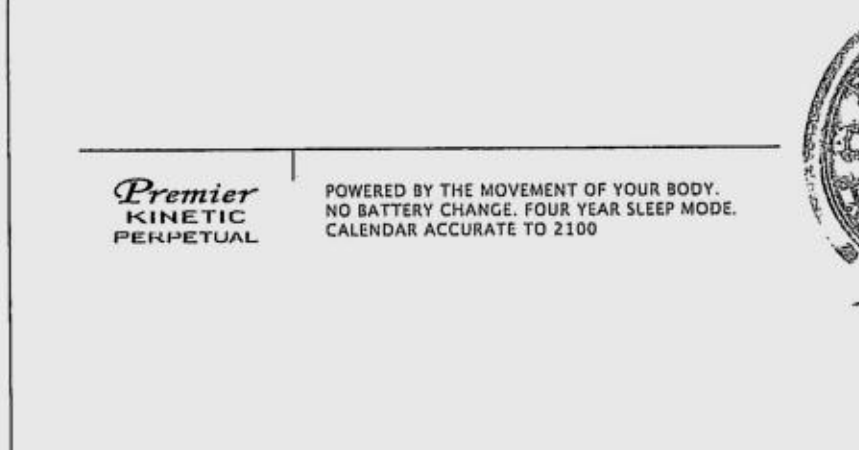

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Go win-win, court urged on test leak

From page A1

has tainted the Philippine nursing profession's image, and Brion believes a solution in which the appellate court would have a role could stop the filing in court of motions for reconsideration that could delay the resolution of an issue that has polarized many sectors in the country.

"I intend to write the Court of Appeals a letter suggesting a conciliatory approach," Brion, a former appellate court justice, said. "I can see that we can still come up with a win-win solution."

He said he had talked to CA Justice Vicente Veloso to inform him of his plan, and was told that the court would consider the suggestion.

Role for CA

"He told me, 'By all means, send it. Once we receive it, we will consider it.' He is not saying he'll approve it," Brion said of his talk with Veloso.

Asked what role he hoped the appellate court could play, Brion said: "The court can set up a meeting between the stakeholders."

Asked what the stakeholders could discuss in a conciliatory meeting, Brion said the various parties could talk about the courses of action they could take in line with the court's decision on Friday, which requires a selective retake of the June examination's Tests III and V which were affected by the leakage.

Airing out grievances

The court also ruled that the 1,687 graduates who were added to the list of passers after the PRC's recomputation of scores should retake the two tests.

It also ordered the reinstatement to the list of passers the 1,186 graduates whose names were removed following the recomputation.

The appellate court also allowed the passers who took the tests outside Metro Manila and Baguio City and who did not take the final coaching sessions at the review centers implicated in the leakage to take their oath as nurses.

The PRC had said that more than 17,000 of the estimated 42,000 nursing candidates passed the exam.

A new nursing board

Brion also said that in a conciliatory meeting, the stakeholders could air their sentiments about and suggest solutions to the various issues they had been facing.

He added that a conciliatory meeting would place the parties involved in the issue in a friendlier situation.

"These stakeholders had not met together in a non-adversarial atmosphere," he said, adding that they probably had only crossed paths when they filed their legal petitions before the appellate court and during oral arguments called by the court.

Brion also said that aside from resolving the leakage issue, the government was intent on ensuring that the next nursing licensure exam in December would not be tainted, and on reconstituting the Board of Nursing whose members had resigned.

After these matters had been taken care of, he said the focus would shift to the PRC.

"We will check its present leaders' administrative liability. Then we will look at the system of the PRC," Brion said.

Presidential orders

The PRC had been criticized by those calling for a retake of the exams for its decision to recompute the grades after the discovery of the leakage.

PRC Chair Leonor Rosero has maintained that the commission is against a retake because it believes that its recomputation of the grades had nullified the leakage's effects.

Rosero earlier also accused Brion and Dante Ang, who heads the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, of "intruding" into the PRC's affairs. Brion and Ang both advocated a nationwide retake of the nursing exam portions affected by the leakage.

Intent on moving on, Ms Arroyo has ordered the agencies concerned to undertake measures to ensure there would be no repeat of the cheating scandal.

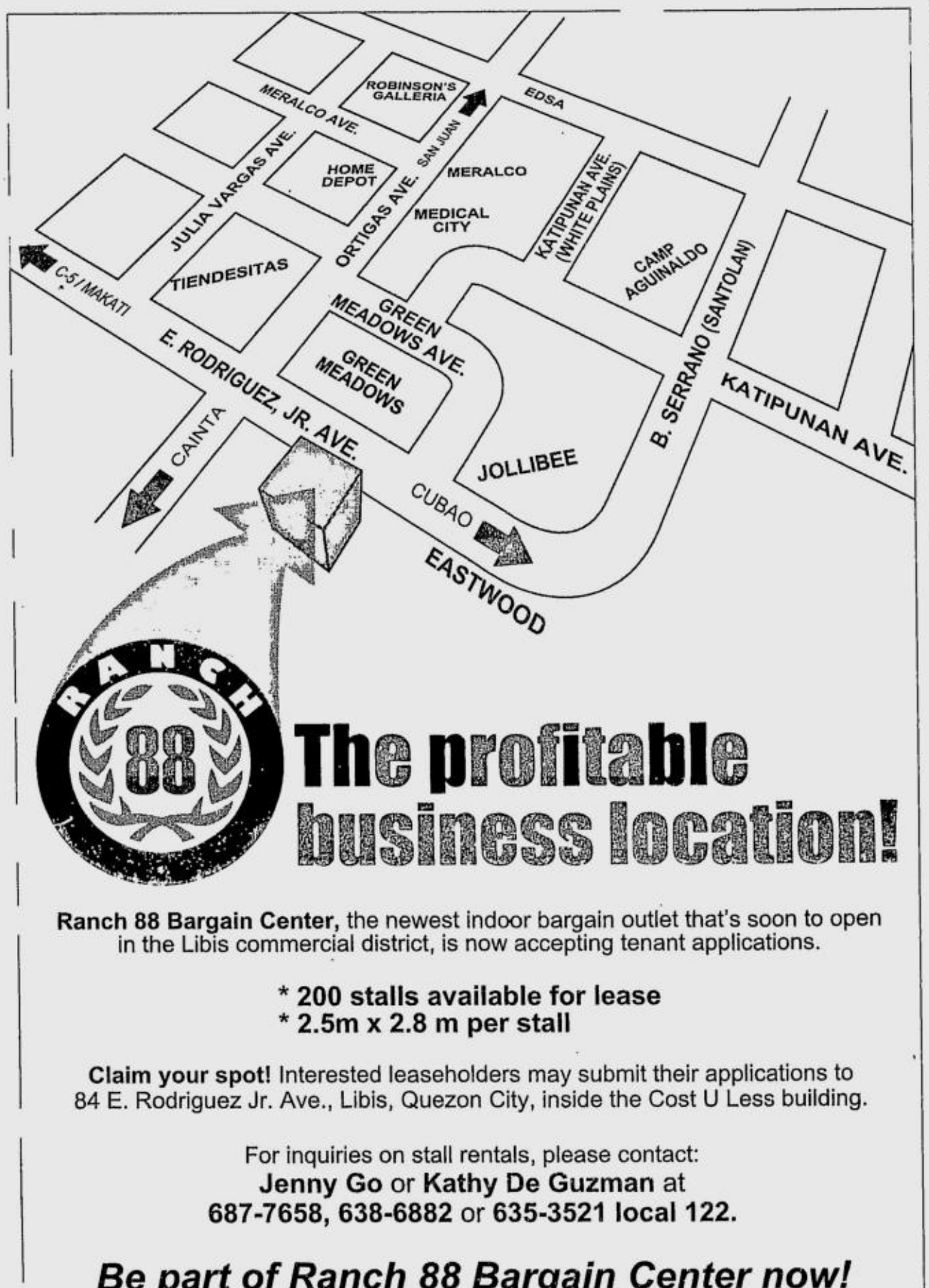
Presidential directives have been sent to the Department of Labor and Employment, the PRC, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) and other agencies, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Never again

"All stakeholders should join hands to ensure that this never happens again," Bunye said, noting that the controversy had "struck a blow and unfairly brought a stigma to Filipino professionalism."

"We have to protect the integrity and competitiveness of our students and professionals who comprise our principal and most important resource," the presidential spokesperson said.

HUNDREDS of nursing graduates who passed the controversial licensure exams rally at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila during a recent nationwide protest against a retake of the June tests. REM ZAMORA



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'It's possible to eradicate poverty'

From page A1

On Sunday, the former economics professor flew to the southern port city of Chittagong to pay tribute to the women of nearby Jobra village where he started his pioneering scheme.

"I've come here to say thanks to the people of Chittagong, especially the women of Jobra village, who showed that microcredit could indeed eradicate poverty," Yunus told a reception in Chittagong city.

He also made an impassioned appeal to the country's politicians to reach a consensus on election reforms in a bid to pave the way for free and fair general polls in January next year.

"The whole world is looking at us after the Nobel Prize. It's now perfect time for the two major parties to reach a consensus so that we have a smooth election," Yunus said.

"I urge them to settle the dispute in a single sitting and happily inform the people that they've agreed to participate in the elections," he added.

Bangladesh's main opposition Awami League and its 13 leftist allies have threatened to boycott polls unless the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) removes "progovernment" election officials and agrees to reforms.

Pride and delight

Across Bangladesh at the weekend, however, people expressed their pride and delight at Yunus' award.

In the village of Hathazari near Chittagong, around 500 people took to the streets in a celebratory procession, according to the ATN Bangla television network.

At Singair in the central Manikganj district, the channel showed more than 30,000 people beating drums and chanting "Light the lamp of Yunus at every home" as they marched through the town.

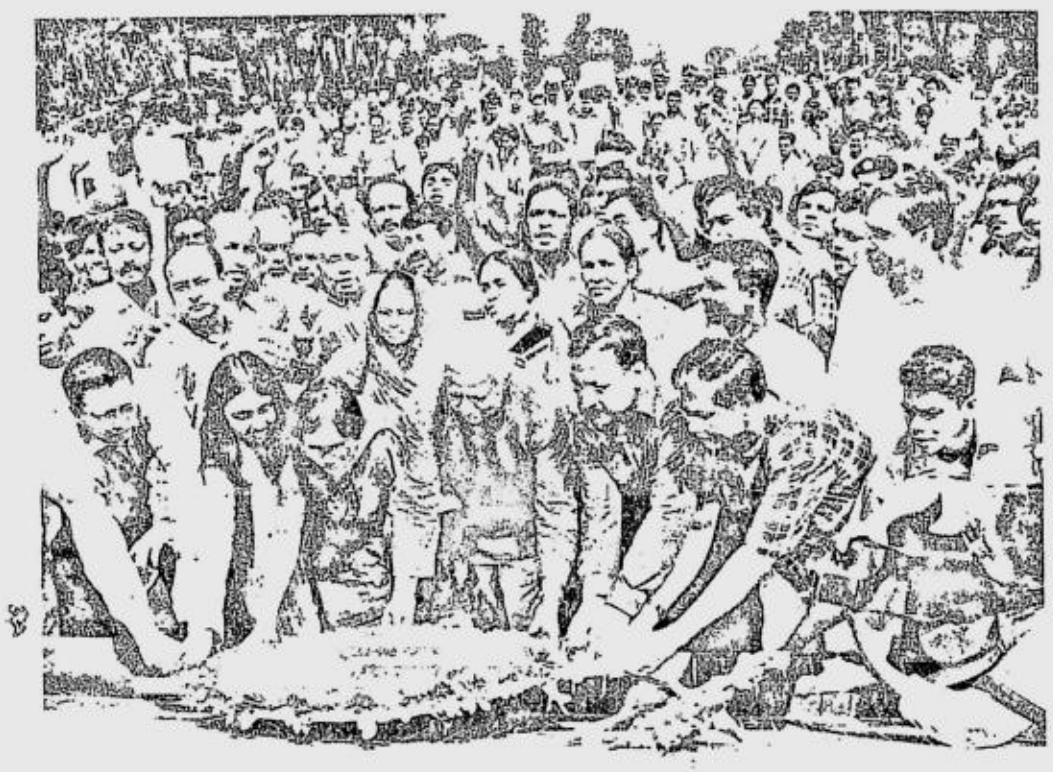
Borrowers also paid tribute to the economist whose unique microcredit system has been replicated in more than 40 countries.

"Grameen Bank has changed a dirt-poor woman like me into a small businesswoman with a home and good livelihood," said 32-year-old Margina, from the northern Mymensingh district, who took out her first loan to buy a cow 12 years ago and now runs a thriving rice business with her once jobless husband.

"The difference between my life now and then is like the difference between day and night. I don't have words to say how happy I am that Muhammad Yunus has won this prize," she said. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Grameen Bank began life as a pilot project when Yunus was a professor of rural economics at Chittagong University.

The project set out to prove that lending to the poorest in society was not an "impossible proposition" and to break the cycle of poverty created by middlemen and moneylenders. *AFP*



YUNUS (center) is accompanied by his family and supporters as he lays a wreath at The National Monument in Savar on the outskirts of Dhaka in memory of those who died in the 1971 War of independence, a day after receiving news of his Nobel Peace Prize award. AFP

$42 loan changed poor woman's life

From page A1

poor," said Margina, from Kathali village in the northern Mymensingh district.

"I used to only eat one meal a day and some days I could not eat at all. My husband did not have any work and we lived in miserable conditions," said Margina, who uses one name.

The bank, which targets women because it believes they are better than men at running family finances, has given small loans to more than 6.6 million people in Bangladesh to help them become self-employed.

"I borrowed 3,000 taka for a cow and I started earning money by selling milk. Then I took another loan to buy a cart for the cow to pull and then another one to buy a mobile phone (to sell calls)," said Margina.

'Phone ladies'

Branching out to become one of Bangladesh's now ubiquitous "village phone ladies," who generate income by hiring out mobile phones by the minute, Margina began to gain confidence.

"I saw my life was changing and it made me very happy. Now I run a rice business and four months ago, I borrowed 96,000 taka ($1,371) to buy a shop in the market where I run the business with my husband," she said.

"Grameen Bank has changed a dirt-poor woman like me into a small business woman with a home and good livelihood," she added.

"The difference between my life now and then is like the difference between day and night. Before Grameen nobody, not even my own father, would lend to me.

"I don't have words to say how happy I am that Muhammad Yunus has won this prize. I don't really know what it is but I'm very happy because I think of him as a member of my own family for all he has done for us," she said.

Crossing poverty line

Like Margina, mother-of-three Hazira Khatun, 40, from Goari village, also in Mymensingh district, took her first loan to buy a cow in 1996.

Loans are given for purchases that will help the borrower become self-supporting such as a rickshaw, a piece of equipment, chickens or a mobile phone.

Hazira's family lived in a one-room hut made from mud and leaves, and her laborer husband earned barely enough to provide one meal a day.

During the rainy season, water would pour through the roof and the whole hut had to be constantly rebuilt after storms.

"First I bought a cow and then I took another loan to buy another cow," Hazira said.

"I used to sell milk in the market and gradually our condition started to improve. Grameen Bank gave me hope that I could have a better life.

"I continued taking loans and I bought a piece of land to build a tin-and-wood home with four rooms. Now we also have a latrine, a water pump and we have also bought some small pieces of land to grow vegetables.

"These days, we are a good farming family. Day by day, we crossed the poverty line with the help of Grameen Bank and all our three children go to school."

Other families

In Hazira's village, other families, too, have benefited from Yunus' microcredit concept with borrowers more than doubling over 10 years from 40 in 1996 to 115 today.

"Before all the borrowers were landless and they lived in huts on land belonging to other people," Hazira said.

"There was no business and the only work was to be a laborer or a rickshaw puller by leasing the rickshaw from someone else.

"Nobody's children could go to school due to poverty and we used to force them into child labor. Everyone was landless and we could never have thought of getting a loan from a bank."

"Now, nobody in the families who have taken loans works as a laborer, they all live in good conditions with latrines and water pumps at their houses. We've bought land, the houses are more solid and all the rickshaw pullers own their rickshaw," Hazira said.

"Our poverty is removed and everything has been done by taking loans from Grameen Bank." *AFP*

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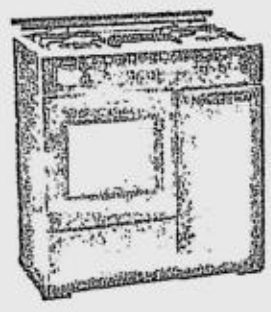

SL-8041 30WTR
- 4 Gas Burner
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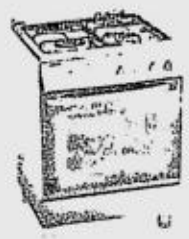
- Gas oven
- Grill Function

P4,165.83/mo. 6 mos.



D-65121x
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- Grill Function

P5,999.17/mo. 6 mos.

F-650E5x
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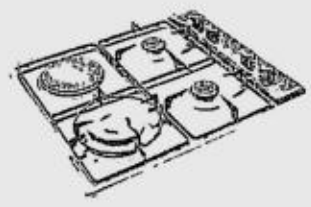

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Farmers start caravan vs killings today

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ABOUT 5,000 FARMERS AND FISHERMEN FROM six Central Luzon provinces and Pangasinan will converge here today to kick-off a two-day caravan against political killings allegedly by government security forces and the continuing war games by American soldiers in the Philippines.

The caravan will traverse supposed heavily "militarized" areas like this Pampanga capital and nearby Mexico town, and then proceed to a rally at the gate of the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City where US troops are training, according to Joseph Canlas, chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon, the organizer of the protest.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) will send a 10-vehicle convoy to Bulacan on Tuesday to meet up the AMGL contingent for a caravan in the province's villages where several extrajudicial executions had taken place.

A total of 110 activists, including Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento, have been killed in the region since February 2001, according to the human rights group Karapatan.

The group also recorded 21 victims of massacres, 25 victims of frustrated killings and 58 victims of forced disappearances.

Gerry Albert Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said his group and KMP would present a petition to Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and Mayors Felix Ople of Hagonoy and Zoilito Santiago of Obando and Danilo Domingo of Malolos City.

He said the petition would ask the local officials to seek the pullout of Army soldiers in villages.

A Mass will be held in Obando in memory of Pamalakaya leaders Orlando Rivera and Napoleon Rivera who were killed in August this year.

STAFF CADET Alexandra Workboys gets help from Second Class Cadet Olivia Espiritu in suiting up for a mock combat exercise with the members of the Royal Military Academy of Australia and PMA. They were the only women to join the exercise. The Australians attempted to use PMA's makeshift gear for the training, as part of a sharing program. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

"We will deliver a strong political statement against extra-judicial killings and other forms of human rights abuses perpetrated by agents of the state. We will oblige the local government officials of Bulacan to make a stand in defense of civil liberties, dignity of life and civil liberties," Pamalakaya national chair, Fernando Hicap, said in a statement here.

Summoned by the Commission on Human Rights last August in Angeles City, Army commanders in Central Luzon had denied their roles in several reported abuses.

From Malolos City, the Central Luzon caravan will proceed to Manila for the two-day "Martsa ng Masang Anakpawis Laban Kahirapan, Kagutuman, Pamamaslang at Charter Change (March of the Toiling Masses against Poverty, Hunger, Killings and Charter Change)."

Last month, Karapatan and the Mothers and Relatives against Tyranny (Martyr) submitted urgent appeals to the Geneva-based United Nations Council on Human Rights to intervene in the Central Luzon situation.

"The Philippines is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is ironic, however, that Filipinos continue to experience systematic derogation and violation of their citizens' rights. Under the present administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, these violations have escalated under a climate of intense state repression and persecution with the proliferation of death squads attacking and physically eliminating with impunity hundreds of unarmed and defenseless civilians critical of the Arroyo administration," Karapatan and Martyr said in the appeals dated Sept. 29.

The groups asked the UN body to urge the Philippine government "to forestall the spate of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, torture and other forms of attacks against civil and political rights and prevent the further wreaking of havoc on the lives of the civilian populace in Central Luzon and in the entire Philippines."

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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S.O.S. SORSOGON

Appeals for help in cash or in kind to help rehabilitate schools, markets and churches in the province hardest hit by "Milenyo."

A report from Fr. Gerard Deveza and Councilor David Duran says they bought P50,000 worth of nails, P90,000 nipa shingles, P90,000 wooden posts, P25,000 cocolumber and P5,000 worth of bamboo shingles, from the P500,000 sent to them last Oct. 13.

The barangays they helped this weekend are Talisay and Sampaloc and more to be helped are Balogo, Sampaloc, Bitan-o, Kambulaga, Pi-ot, Peñafrancia, Pamurayan, Himaloto, Pucdol, Pal-hi and Bulabog. Trucks they have used were donated for use by local residents.
An area donated to the Bishop by Consuelo Madrigal will be built with more permanent housing for fishermen's families.

More donations have been received. The report from Azucena Grajo-Uranza includes: Ruben Balane, P3,000; Teresita Erestain, P1,000; Lourdes de Ocampo, P2,000; Teresita Sison-Go, P10,000 and Jose Torres, P1,000.

GMA Kapuso Fund, according to the answer sent by Nonnie de la Fuente, has sent a representative to Sorsogon to assess the school needs. Kapuso will be working with Habitat for Humanities who responded to the appeal of S.O.S. Sorsogon last week through Margie Moran.

For particulars please call: Ella Duran Nolasco, tel. 646-9980, Azucena Grajo-Uranza, 928-9844 or 373-0810 or Fr. Gerard Deveza, 0917-5382023 or 0918-9008925.
Cash or checks may be deposited at Bank of the Philippine Islands, account number 0011168701. Total so far: P1,068,000.00

Watch this space Monday, Wednesday and Friday for reports on S.O.S. Sorsogon

ADVT.

Police tighten security in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE TOP POLICE official in Central Visayas has ordered his men to enhance the implementation of antiterrorism measures following the series of bombings in Central Mindanao.

Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio Jr. said that although there was no terrorist threat in Cebu at the moment, the police force remained on alert and was verifying reports that followers of Jemaah Islamiyah bomber Dulmatin had arrived in Cebu.

"As of now, we are checking with the intelligence community. There is no confirmation yet from them," Alarcio said Thursday.

Alarcio said investigators were also checking if the terrorists were planning to extend their activities here to disrupt the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit scheduled to be held in Cebu in December.

Even before the bombings in Central Mindanao, the police had stepped up antiterrorism measures but had to augment them because of the incidents, he said.

They were building up their barangay intelligence network to get ground intelligence and strengthened security at possible terrorist targets, like seaports, airports and several public and business establishments, he said.

"We are putting stricter measures as far as our seaports, airports, business establishments and other critical establishments. We are talking to the security officers to review their security procedures and strengthen it," Alarcio said.

"In short, we make it hard for the perpetrators to commit atrocities in these establishments."

He said policemen based in Cebu were also being trained on how to respond to terrorist attacks.

The police were closely coordinating with the military in Cebu, as well as with different emergency groups such as the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation, he said.

Alarcio urged community members to do their part in keeping Cebu safe. "We want everyone to play a role by providing information," he said.

Pagasa sets up disaster alert gadgets in S. Leyte

MAASIN CITY—OVER NINE months after the mudslide tragedy in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) will set up early warning devices in strategic areas in the province.

Weather specialist Armando Taruc Sr., told members of the provincial development council during its regular monthly meeting that the agency would install rain gauges, water level markings in bridges crossing turbulent river, and tide gauges in port jetties in strategic areas in St. Bernard and other municipalities, and in this capital city.

Taruc, who heads a four-member inspection team in the province, said all barangays of St. Bernard would have one rain gauge each and water level markings in big rivers.

All other municipalities will have two rain gauges and water level markings while the towns with ports will get tide gauges, he said.

The weather bureau will purchase 18 manual rain gauges at P5,000 each and 23 automatic ones at P9,000 each.

The manual rain gauges are manufactured locally but certified by the World Meteorological Organization, while the automatic devices are imported and more sophisticated because of their digital features, Taruc said.

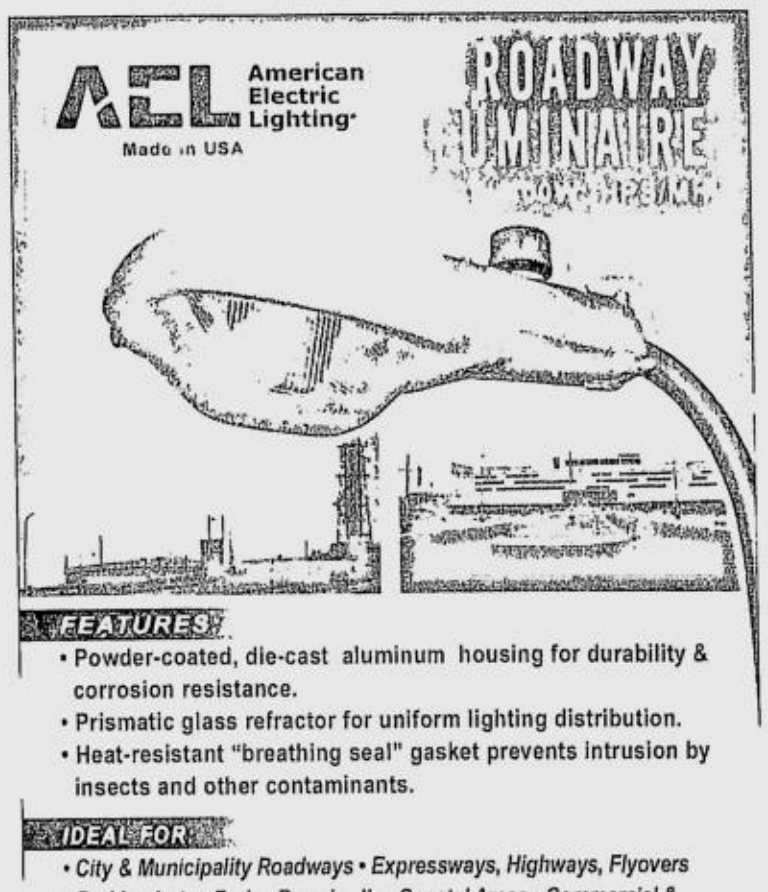
Local governments in the other provinces will pay for similar early warning systems to be set up in their respective areas, he said.

"[But] here [in Southern Leyte], the [acquisition program] will be financed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) [following] the harrowing experience of Guinsaugon."

The entire village was buried in a massive mudslide killing at least 1,000 people. About 900 more villagers, including some 200 schoolchildren, were declared missing and presumed dead.

Taruc said his team had validated more than half of the proposed sites and would return in November for the installation of the early warning system in these areas.

Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas



ROUNDUP

2 hurt in blasts

ANGELES CITY—Two explosions rocked a suspected illegal firecracker factory on Thursday here, injuring a year-old boy and his 26-year-old father and damaging 20 houses. City police chief Senior Supt. Policarpio Segubre identified the injured as John Kervy Pascual and his father Louie. They were treated for burns at the hospital. The supposed illegal factory, located at the St. Vincent Subdivision on Purok 5 in Barangay Pampang, is in a house owned by one Lea Turla, according to Segubre. Segubre said investigators were still determining the cause of the blast.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Social work award

LUCENA CITY—The Association of Local Social Welfare and Development Officers of the Philippines Inc. (ALSWDOPI) has named Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga "Outstanding Governor of the Philippines" in the field of social welfare and development in rites held in the first week of October at the Manila Hotel. He was cited for his efforts to improve the plight of the poor, rehabilitation programs in calamity areas in north Quezon and various projects in other municipalities. Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and ALSWDOPI national president Ernesto Montecillo also awarded Pagbilao mayor Romeo Portes, Calauag town mayor Jerwin Navarro and day care worker Editha Bahaladia of Candelaria.

Militiaman found dead

DAVAO CITY—A militiamen, believed to have been abducted last month by New People's Army rebels, was found dead in Toril District here on Wednesday. Maj. Patrick Cinco, public information officer of Task Force Davao, said Ricky Ijanon, of Barangay Sibulan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur had been missing since Sept. 5. He said Davao del Sur authorities had suspected that Ijanon was abducted by NPA rebels under Cesar Lumbayo because of his work with the military.

Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

P20-M road project

JOSE ABAD SANTOS, Davao del Sur—The government has earmarked P20 million for a road project that would link this town to Glan in Sarangani province. Gov. Benjamin Bautista said the road would not only provide residents easy access to Sarangani but also shorten their travel time to Digos City, where the Davao del Sur provincial capitol is located. Bautista said Undersecretary Virgilio Leyretana, chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council, had told him the project could start once the local government entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

2 cops found dead

TACURONG CITY—Two police officers were found dead in an abandoned car in a remote village here Oct. 10. Supt. Kadil Masahud, chief of the Sultan Kudarat Police Mobile Group, identified them as PO1 Salahudin Puti and PO1 Sahidi Abdul, both assigned to the Cotabato City police. Masahud said Abdul and Puti bore multiple bullet wounds in the head and body.

Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

6 soldiers hurt in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Six members of the Army's 7th Scout Rangers Company were wounded in a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits on Mount Tunggol in Patikul, Sulu on Oct. 8. Col. Reynaldo Sealana, chief of the Army's 104th Brigade, said the bandits were with Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists during the 9 p.m. clash. "There was a heavy exchange of fire. We cannot determine the actual number of casualties on the side of the terrorists," Sealana said. Maj. Eugene Batarra, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said the bandits were led by Radulan Sahiron, alias Kumander Putol.

Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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E. Visayas schools focus on values education

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE EDUCATION department in Eastern Visayas is not resting on its laurel, even if the region has consistently topped the National Achievement Test or similar national tests in the past five years or so.

Even before the NAT results were out this year, the Department of Education has already launched a program on values development that would complement its existing academic program.

Brilliance in character

The values education program, dubbed as Advancing Brilliance in Character (ABC) program, is now being given focus in public schools in the region, DepEd-9 regional information officer Rebecca Lucero Ragrag told the INQUIRER.

The ABC, which Ragrag said was a brainchild of DepEd-8 Regional Director Sol Matugas, aims "to build a region-wide culture imbued with human values anchored on the over-arching value of human dignity of every citizen in the region."

Complementary program

"We do not sit down and relax because we always top the achievement test. There has to be a complementary program, which is directed to the development of the whole person," Ragrag said.

Under the guiding principles of the ABC program, she said, DepEd would like to promote human values as bases for brilliance in character and to define brilliance in character holistically to include feeling, thinking and acting.

Under the ABC program, value themes are chosen for each month under the heading of a quarterly core values, such as love of God, love of people, love of country, and love of nature.

The introduction of the values education, however, did not diminish the efforts to improve or strengthen the academic performance of the students.

Shortly after the results for the NAT were released this year, Matugas called for an intensive monitoring of some public schools in the region, especially those with low mean percentage scores in the NAT so that interventions could be made to heighten the students' academic performance.

Collaboration

Asked what made the region a consistent topnotcher in the NAT, Ragrag attributed this to the collaborative efforts of the teachers, parents, the community and other stakeholders.

According to Ragrag, preparation is also a big factor in achieving good NAT results. "In the past we only prepare for the test when it is already at hand, meaning the preparation is [made] a month before, two months before. So what happens is the students are cramming, the teachers are also cramming," she said.

Intervention

She said what they do now is to implement the intervention at the start of the school year.

"We focus on the low performing schools and let them make intervention schemes on how to increase their [academic] performance level," Ragrag added.

Eastern Visayas topped again this year's NAT both for the first year and fourth year levels and was one of the topnotchers in the Grade 6 level.

THE BAGUIO City government is conducting an inventory of the local billboard frames dotting the summer capital. Old timers have wanted them down too before Baguio celebrates its centennial.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

New Face of People Power

By **Ben Evardone**
Governor, Eastern Samar
PRO, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

Remember that our nation gifted the world with the phenomenon of modern People Power two decades ago, paving the way for the toppling of dictatorships elsewhere by peaceful mass movements. Now it is ironic that the well-educated sectors of Philippine society, some of them the former leading lights themselves of our bloodless uprising, have become stubborn in clinging to old ways that no longer work, unable to recognize that a new People Power revolution is underway.

Elites against the popular will

Betraying a seeming disdain for the *masa*, elite groups engaged in last-minute maneuvers to wreck the People's Initiative pushed by localities and ordinary citizens as a means to amend the Constitution and overhaul of the US-style bicameral presidential system that has failed them.

The so-called leaders of civil society and the political opposition are casting serious doubts on the capability of ordinary Filipinos to exercise their sovereign power to initiate direct action in amending the Charter, or even to comprehend constitutional reforms proposing the switch to a gridlock-free unicameral Parliamentary System. These elitist leaders are saying that this "People Power" incarnate is a sham because ordinary Filipinos do not understand the intricacies of Charter change, let alone the proposed systemic change.

The haughty implication is that the *masa* are an ignorant lot incapable of making value judgments. This, even if the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), has, in tandem with Sigaw ng Bayan, conducted after the Holy Week, a 100-day "ULAP sa TOP" consultative summits in all 79 provinces, precisely to inform our people about, and get their feedback on, the proposed shift to parliamentary government.

Worse, these elite groups are even casting aspersion on the integrity of the signature gathering campaign by alleging it to be spurious—simply because they find it unbelievable for the *masa* to gather in record time as many as 9 million signatures, of which 6.3 million have been verified by city and municipal officers of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) as authentic registered voters in all 213 legislative districts.

Elites betray democracy

What these critics refuse to accept is that this avalanche of support is a manifestation of the worsening public disaffection with our political system and many of its leaders, and their fervent desire to fix it via the most democratic mode of doing it, which is the People's Initiative.

EDSA I, which toppled the Marcos dictatorship, was a direct consequence of 20 years of the people's struggle for justice and democracy. The same is true for the current People's Initiative, which is the consequence of an increasing public disgust over the poisoned political atmosphere.

This endeavor has received a tremendous boost from the phenomenon of people empowerment that has been gradually institutionalized in local governments units (LGUs) ever since the enactment of the 1991 Local Government Code exactly 15 years ago last Oct. 10.

Because of this Code, our people, down to the barangay level, have become more involved in government decision-making. Local government units cannot approve and enact their budgets without prior public consultations. Even foreign-funded projects have to undergo public consultations to allow our local executives to determine if these are acceptable to our constituencies.

Local government projects endorsed to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Investment Coordinating Council (ICC) should first win endorsement by the people down to the barangays, prior to their submission for national-government funding.

True enough, this Code has made people participation mandatory in practically all aspects of official decision-making. This is people empowerment in action and a prime example of participatory democracy that the elite refuses to acknowledge. But such a pathetic resistance to change is to be expected, for such bold reforms will claim as its first casualty the elite's stranglehold on political and economic power under our failed presidential system.

Remove the roadblocks now

What truly riles opponents of the People's Initiative is that the *masa* have exercised their sovereign power as enshrined in the 1987 Charter, a power they have ceded for the longest time to the ruling elites.

Ordinary citizens decided to take a direct hand in changing the political course that our nation will take, with or without the backing of the traditional elite. The people came in droves to sign up for the People's Initiative as a form of protest over an overly centralized government structure that has for decades undercut political stability and economic independence.

Our people now believe that only through Initiative can they decide for themselves—instead of again leaving their sorry fate in the hands of a powerful few—what is good for future generations.

Time is running out. This is the last chance for us to escape the heavily poisoned atmosphere that has dulled our global competitiveness and turned the Philippines from a postwar economic powerhouse—second only to Japan—to one of Asia's basket cases. Given the irreversible trend of nationwide support for the People's Initiative, the elite should bow to the popular will and let the citizenry decide via a plebiscite on whether they want real change or just more of the same.

PAID FOR BY GOVERNOR BEN EVARDONE

Quezon puts down 300 billboards

LUCENA CITY—MORE THAN 300 BILLboards and signages sprouting along the Maharlika Highway in Quezon have been scheduled for removal by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Ronnel Tan of the DPWH-Quezon 4th Engineering District said they have already removed more than 20 small outdoor advertisements that they found hazardous and illegally constructed.

He said the dismantled billboards were constructed within the legal scope of the highway.

"We're still in the process of evaluation. As soon as we're finished, we will immediately start our full operation to remove hazardous and illegal structures along the road," Tan said.

He said there were more than 300 billboards and signages that they will have to dismantle along the Maharlika Highway inside their territorial jurisdiction—from Pagbilao town up to the Quezon-Bicol boundary.

Tan said they have also stopped the processing of application permits for new roadside advertisement structures.

After Typhoon "Milenyo" toppled giant advertisement billboards, President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the removal of structures that violated the law and were threats to public safety.

Meanwhile, Tan said the typhoon caused an estimated P18 million worth of damaged roads and bridges in the 4th district of the province.

He said once the funds were released they would immediately start reconstructing the damaged portion. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

25 Vietnamese suspected of rice smuggling freed

BUTUAN CITY—CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES here said the 25 Vietnamese nationals earlier held on suspicion of rice smuggling had been freed for lack of evidence.

Josefa Villaseñor, acting customs collector, said she also ordered the release of MV Fuan Viethiehong.

"There was no material proof or clear evidence of rice smuggling against the crew of the Vietnamese ship," Villaseñor told the INQUIRER.

On Sept. 22, authorities impounded the Vietnamese vessel and locked up the 25 crew following reports they unloaded 660 bags of rice to motorized bancas owned by unidentified fishermen in Carmen, Agusan del Norte.

The ship had earlier unloaded 67,337 bags of imported rice to the National Food Authority warehouse in Surigao City.

Villaseñor said based on their investigation, the crew had indeed unloaded rice off Carmen but they only did so because they were running out of supplies.

The ship, she said, encountered engine trouble while on its way to Gingoog City and the crew negotiated with local fishermen for food in exchange of rice.

"They (Vietnamese) unloaded rice [but] that was only to conduct barter with fishermen for fish and animal products," Villaseñor said.

Villaseñor said before the crew was released, they were fined P40,000 for violating port and customs laws.

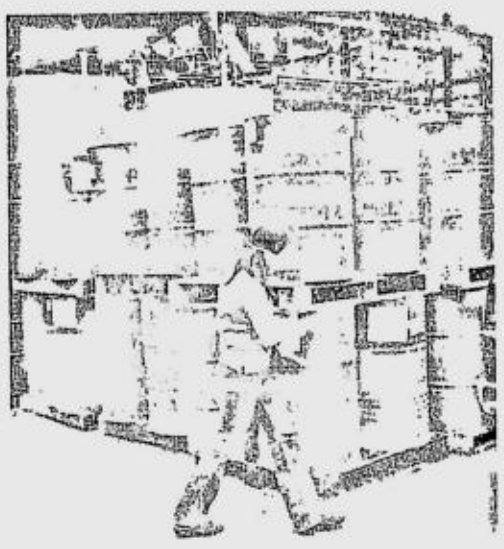
Foreign ships bringing in goods are only allowed to unload their cargo in their specified ports of destination.

MV Fuan Viethiehong had not been issued permit to unload cargo in Carmen. *Franklin M. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cleanup of toxic waste dumps in Quezon starts

LUCENA CITY—A massive cleanup of toxic wastes dumped in Quezon province has started, without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges against those responsible for the dumping, a provincial environment official said on Saturday.

"Our urgent task is to conduct immediate detoxification of the area," Gene Beloso, head of the Quezon Environment and Natural Resources Office, said in a phone interview.



A DENR personnel conducts an inventory of toxic drums in Quezon province.
DELFIN T. MALLARI, JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

He said the issue of any criminal liability of the erring parties could wait, "but definitely, someone should be held responsible for the environmental destruction and its lasting threat to human safety."

Two weeks ago, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and an environmentalist group found the dumps littered with hundreds of plastic and steel drums containing toxic industrial wastes in Barangay Mangilag, Candelaria town, and in a mountain village of Sariaya town.

The dumps have several manmade pits filled with different kinds of chemical waste.

The materials were traced to Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESII), a licensed waste recycler with a plant in San Pablo City in Laguna.

The DENR temporarily closed the plant pending results of its investigation of possible violation of environmental laws.

CESII subsequently offered to clean the dumps. On Friday, it sent workers to start the cleanup in Mangilag Norte.

Steel and plastic drums were hauled by CESII trucks from the area and brought back to its plant.

As of Saturday, 106 drums and six cubic meters of mixed soil and liquefied toxic waste had been retrieved.

Beloso said the toxic chemicals in the pit were mixed with soil and were being dug up by a backhoe and placed in sacks for hauling.

He said CESII had secured the services of a company specializing in the cleanup of hazardous wastes.

"The workers have only been tasked with removing and retrieving the drums from the dump," Beloso said.

One of the workers said his group was each being paid P200 a day by CESII to clean the site.

Sheila de Leon, director of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, witnessed the cleanup operations and expressed satisfaction with the initial effort of the company.

"Cleaning up of the site of toxic waste is one thing and the culpability of the company is another should the court find it criminally liable," she explained.

Candelaria municipal environment and natural resources officer Caloy Reyes said the company still had work to do to rehabilitate the village.

"There is still a lot of things to be done to secure the health of the people," Reyes said in a phone interview.

The company should also compensate the villagers for damages, he said.

One resident lamented how the village was now being referred to as "toxic village" by "outsiders."

"We appreciate the cleanup operation, but the damage has been done. All our farm produce and our livestock bear the toxic stigma," Ernesto Baldon, a village security man, said over the phone.

"It will take a long time before it is erased from the mind of the public," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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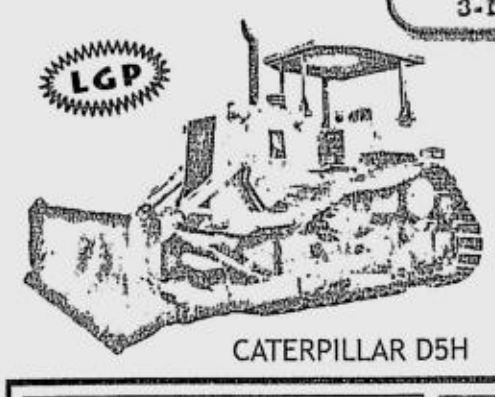

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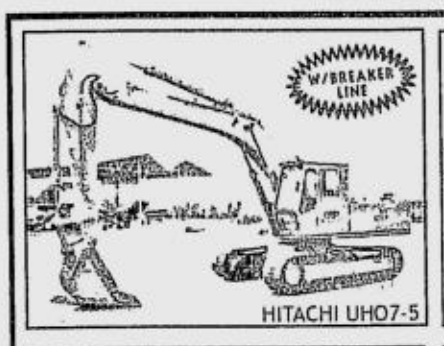

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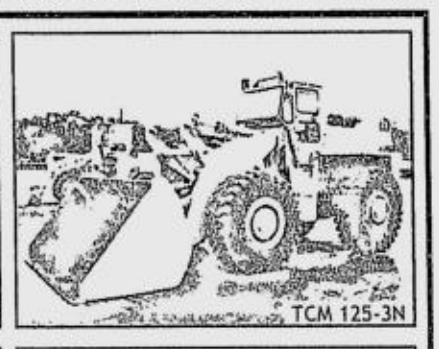
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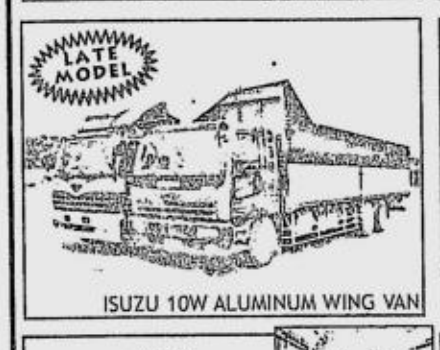

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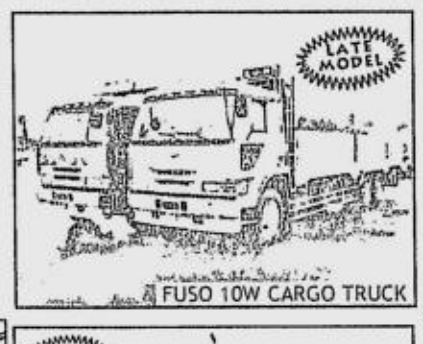

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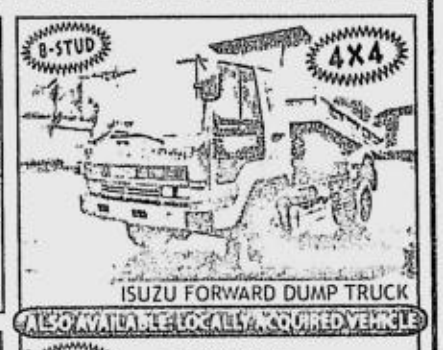

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More Sports stories on A29 to A32

Bulls topple Kings; Welcoat wins

By June Navarro

RED BULL DOESN'T MIND IF LORDY TUgade and Junthy Valenzuela stay on the sidelines.

Without them, the Bulls still managed to escape with a hard-earned 84-79 win over the heavily favored Barangay Ginebra Kings in the Talk 'N Text-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Enrico Villanueva powered his way to 24 points and drew unlikely support from Carlo Sharma, as well as Rich Alvarez and Leo Najorda as the Bulls sent the Kings to their first defeat in four games.

Valenzuela served an automatic one-game suspension for a couple of flagrant fouls in a losing game against the Coca-Cola Tigers last week while Tugade had a bruised left knee.

"That loss to Coke was an embarrassment," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after his Bulls improved to 3-1. "I told them to redeem themselves and summon back the true character of the team."

Earlier, Welcoat showed its growing maturity by stunning San Miguel Beer, 96-88, behind Jojo Tangkay and Denver Lopez.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Purefoods
7:20 p.m.—Air21 vs. Talk 'N Text

The duo spewed fire from long range and the Dragons held their ground in the face of a stifling full-court pressure applied by the Beermen in the dying minutes to clinch their second win in four games.

Lopez fired seven of his 15 points in the final quarter while Tangkay finished with 18 points as the Dragons picked up their second win in four games while sending the Beermen down to their third straight defeat.

"There was actually no pressure on us," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria. "The game plan was to play our usual game and see what happens. Fortunately, we saw an opening and pounced on it."

With Valenzuela and Tugade out, Najorda came up with 14 points, Sharma registered a career-high 12 points while Alvarez had seven points and nine rebounds, highlighted by a three-point play that gave the Bulls a 75-66 lead.

Mark Caguioa, Jayjay Helterbrand, Rudy Hatfield and Eric Menk moved the Gins within 79-82, but Ginebra couldn't convert on a slew of second-chance baskets down the stretch.

Caguioa shot nine of his 25 points in the fourth and Menk finished with 17 and eight rebounds.

The Beermen continued to miss Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso. Seigle is recuperating from back spasms while Ildefonso's ankle still has to heal after surgery two months ago.

The scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 96—Tangkay 18, Lopez 16, Wainwright 16, Reyes 14, Cabatu 11, Baguion 6, Gelig 6, Lao 4, Ibanes 3 Sta. Maria 2, Mente 0.

SAN MIGUEL 88—Calaguio 17, Espinas 15, Adriano 12, Tenorio 10, Hontiveros 9, Pena 9, Racela 8, Gonzales 4, Wilson 4, Kong 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 23-24, 45-48, 73-71, 96-88

Second Game

RED BULL 84—Villanueva 24, Najorda 14, Sharma 12, Baguio 10, Pennisi 8, Alvarez 7, Fonacier 3, Cruz 3, Bugia 2, Robinson 1.

GINEBRA 79—Caguioa 25, Menk 17, Helterbrand 11, Hatfield 9, Macapagal 6, Mamaril 4, Abarrientos 3, Adducul 2, Reavis 2, Salvacion 0, Seigle 0.

Quarters: 23-121, 43-37, 59-56, 84-79

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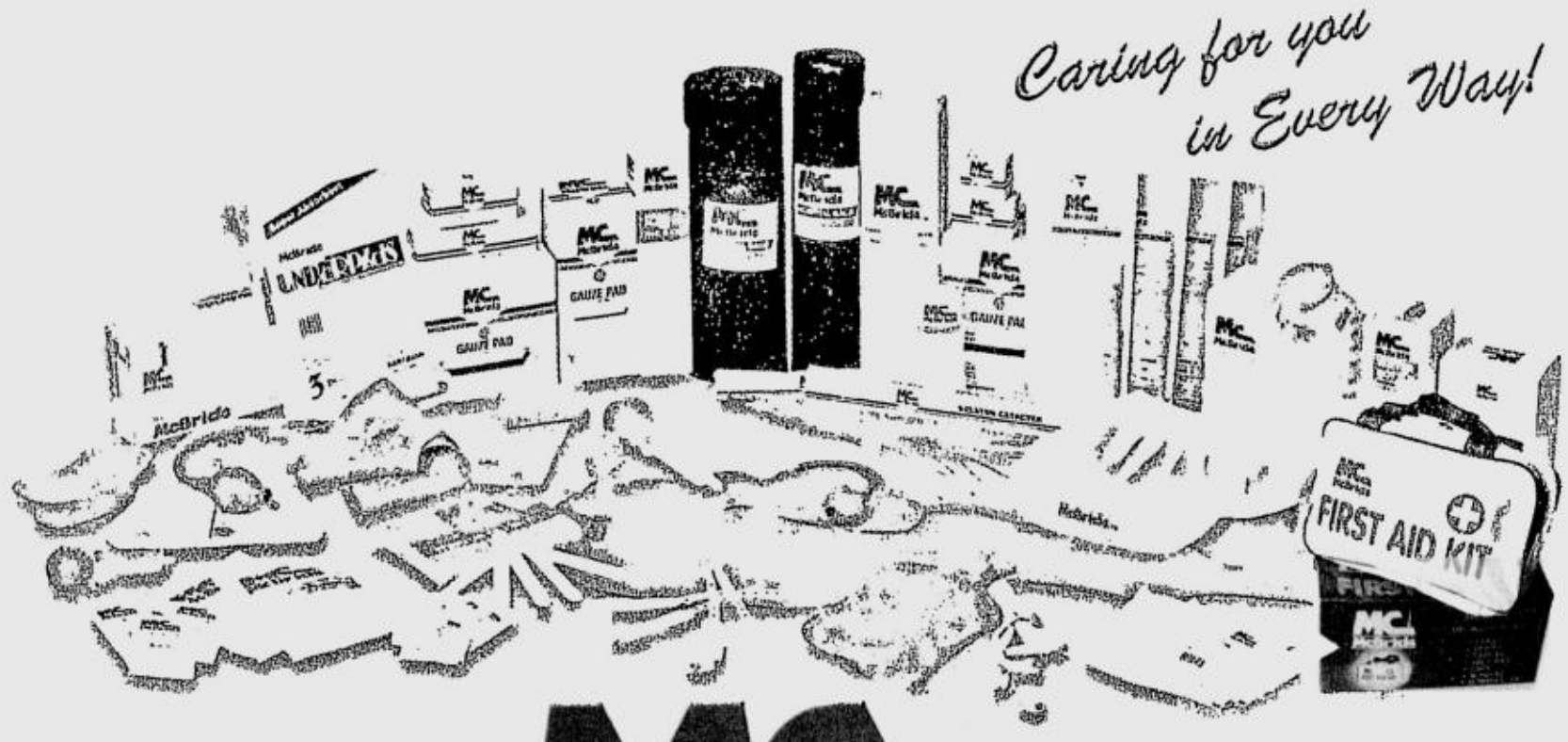

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Asian Ladies golf tomorrow

BAGUIO CITY—TWENTY-FIVE TEAMS, LED by last year's runner-up Manila Southwoods-Masters, will see action in the fourth Camp John Hay Asian Ladies Team Championship starting tomorrow at the short but tough Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

The official practice session is set today with the team captains' meeting scheduled at 5 p.m. Tournament director and club manager Jeric Hechanova will preside over the session at the main function room of the host club.

The par-69 course, redesigned by Jack Nicklaus' Golden Bear International, is noted for its lightning-fast greens and pine tree-lined undulating fairways that will surely test the skills of the record field of more than 100 players.

The sponsors are Rudy Project, CJH Dev. Co., CJH Manor Hotel, Club Leisure Management Inc., Federal Management and Maintenance Inc., Le Chef at the Manor, Fila, Sustagen Premium, Wilson Sports, Golden Nutritious Food Corp., TSAJ Sales Inc., Palm Garden, Samsonite, Golforce Inc., and Mario's Restaurant.

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Garma downs Antonio for lead

INTERNATIONAL MASTER CHITO GARMA outplayed top-seeded Grandmaster Joey Antonio to seize the solo lead with a perfect 5 points in the 2nd Tanauan Active Chess Open Tournament.

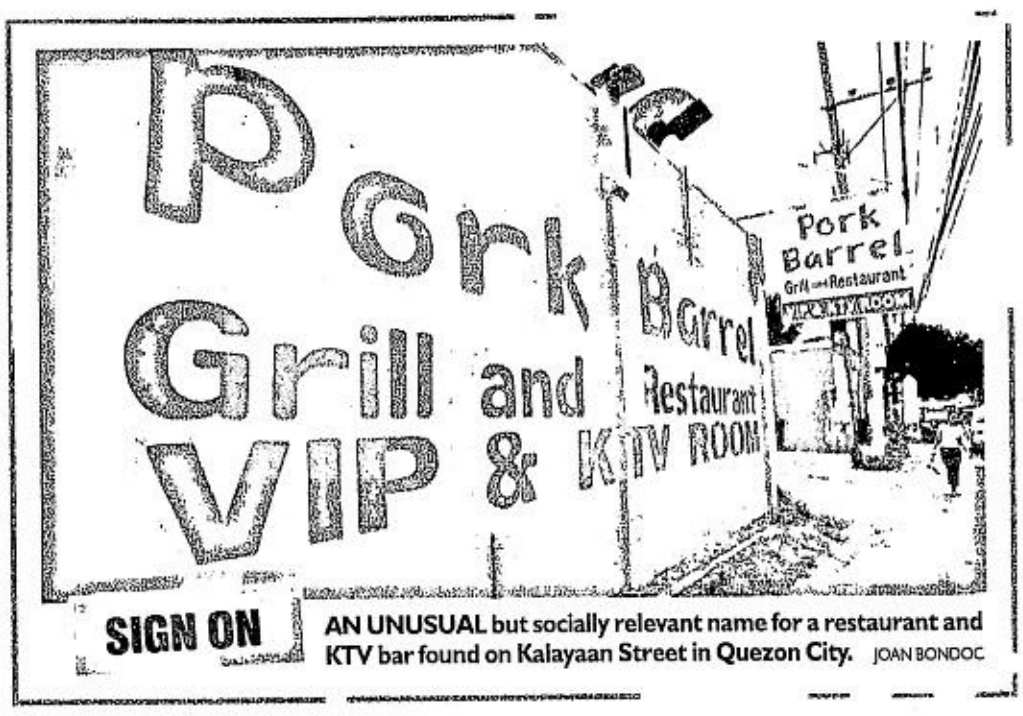
Garma, a former chess Olympian and coach of the La Salle Green Hills team, next squares off with defending champion GM Eugene Torre, one of eight players breathing down his neck with 4.5 points each.

Sharing second with Torre after five of the tournament's 11 rounds are GM Nelson Mariano III, IMs Darwin Laylo, Ronald Bancod and Richard Bitoon, FM Fernie Donguines, National Masters Oliver Barbosa and Roland Nolte, Joey Habla.

The unheralded Habla averted inevitable defeat to IM Petronio Roca after the latter's mobile phone rang, in violation of tournament rules. Roca forfeited the match.

Antonio was mired at 4 points and fell into a tie for 10th place with fourth seed IM Ronald Dableo and IM Yves Rañola in the tournament being held at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph



SIGN ON AN UNUSUAL but socially relevant name for a restaurant and KTV bar found on Kalayaan Street in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Hospital linked to baby deaths to talk to moms

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MOTHERS OF THE SEVEN BAbies who had died of neonatal sepsis, a bacterial infection, at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City, have yet to get in touch with hospital officials.

Hospital chief Winston Go, however, said they would visit the parents as part of their own investigation of the incident.

"We will visit and talk to the mothers," Go told the INQUIRER, days after he had issued an apology to the parents, though he maintained that the hospital did everything to protect the newly-born babies.

Group complaint

Some of the mothers had blamed the hospital for the deaths of their children. One of them, 23-year-old Janice de la Cruz, told the INQUIRER she was thinking of filing charges against the hospital and that she was trying to get in touch with the other mothers for the possible filing of a group complaint.

Hospital records showed that out of the 28 babies born at the hospital on Oct. 4, at least 12 babies had developed neonatal sepsis or an infection in the blood.

Six of the babies died on Oct. 6 while De la Cruz's daughter, Allisone, died on Oct. 7, hospital doctors told Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

Hospital officials said conditions at the hospital had been difficult that day as water lines, damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo" days ago, had not been reconnected.

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By Tarra V. Quismundo

TAKING ACTION BEFORE HE IS HIT WITH A suspension order, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has asked the Court of Appeals to stop Malacañang and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) from acting on a complaint accusing him of putting ghost employees on the payroll of City Hall.

Binay's petition, which sought the immediate issuance of a temporary restraining order, was filed on Friday.

"The haste to do all of these ... demonstrates a grand design to ignore the right of the petitioner and his corespondents to constitutional due process," the mayor said.

The complaint against Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercardo and 16 Makati councilors, was filed by the mayor's political rival, Roberto Brillante, in August.

It has since been submitted by the DILG to Malacañang for evaluation. Should the Palace mete out sanctions against Binay and his coaccused, these would be implemented by the DILG.

For the past days, Binay's camp has been taking security measures to protect him and other city officials from being thrown out of Makati City Hall should the anticipated suspension order be issued.

The mayor had denied Brillante's allegations, saying that the alleged ghost employees in the complaint were all "warm bodies" at City Hall.

LORRIZE Mae Guevarra always celebrates her birthday with a special party, courtesy of the agencies monitoring her growth. EDWIN BACASMAS

RP's six billionth baby now a grown-up 7-year-old

By DJ Yap

TALES OF THE CITY

WHEN THEIR THIRD DAUGHTER LORRIZE Mae was born seven years ago, the Guevarra couple had misgivings about her future.

Rodelio had no stable job, and Lorelei was a stay-at-home mom. Believing their prospects were not good, they despaired that they would not be able to give her the life she deserved.

What they didn't know was that Lorrize Mae's arrival at exactly 12:13 a.m. on Oct. 12, 1999 signaled just the first of many good things to come.

The little girl was chosen by the Population Commission, the Council for the Welfare of Children and the United Nations Population Fund, as the Philippine representative for the six billionth baby, a symbolic way of marking the global population milestone.

Her selection came with benefits and blessings for the family, starting with a tenured position for Rodelio as an administrative aide at Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital where Lorrize Mae was born.

Cash gift

More than that, the proud parents received a P50,000 cash gift, from which they set aside a certain amount to cover Lorrize Mae's educational insurance.

The Guevarra family was also the recipient of services from the health center, the family planning clinic and Fabella Hospital.

And every Oct. 12, Lorrize Mae gets a special birthday bash, courtesy of the institutions monitoring her growth and development.

Last Thursday, she celebrated her seventh birthday with her parents, sisters, friends and neighbors with a party complete with balloons, a birthday cake, toys, gifts and games. The party was held at the CWC offices in Quezon City and organized by CWC and Popcom.

Lorrize Mae has grown up to be a smart and pretty girl. She was an honor student in kindergarten, and is doing well in her class as a Grade 1 pupil, said Rodelio.

"She finds it easy to pick up lessons, and remembers them well. I never have a hard time tutoring her whenever she asks for help in her assignments," he added.

The girl used to be shy whenever the spotlight was focused on her every time her birthday came around, according to her father. But today, she has become more confident and at ease with people other than her parents and sisters Mariz May, 14, and Lordelyn, 11.

Future teacher or nurse

This early, Lorrize Mae already has an idea of what she wants to be when she grows up. "I want to be a nurse or a teacher," she told the INQUIRER. "She probably got the idea from visiting me at work in the hospital. She always seemed fascinated whenever she saw the nurses at Fabella," Rodelio said.

The proud father said Lorrize Mae already understands a little of what being the country's six billionth baby means. "From the start, I explained to her how or why she was chosen, and I think she understands," he said.

Lorelei said she was very happy and proud upon learning of her daughter's selection as the six billionth baby. Since she gave birth to Lorrize Mae, the blessings have poured on their family, she added.

But Rodelio is also aware of the responsibility that Lorrize Mae has been given. "In a way, she could be considered the front liner of her generation, so she has to be a model for other children her age," he said.

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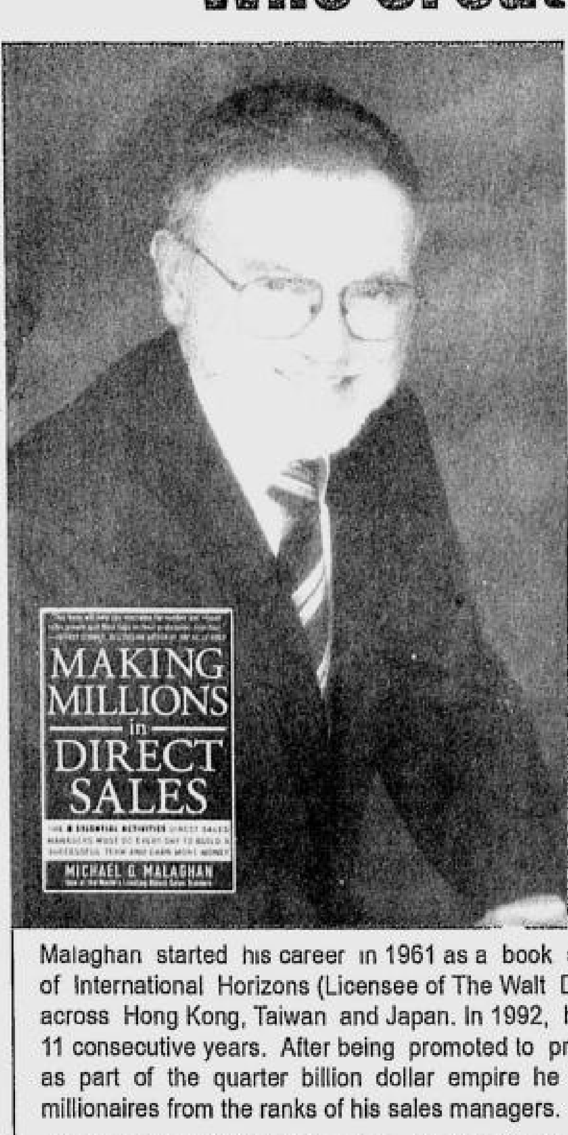

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THE LAST of the five fugitives who broke out of the Northern Police District (NPD) intelligence unit in Caloocan City last month was finally rearrested yesterday. Genesis Agustin was collared after a police manhunt in Bataan, according to Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, NPD director. The five escapees earned the moniker of "Mantikilya (margarine) Boys" because they slipped out of detention on Sept. 11 by spreading margarine on their bodies and sliding out of the iron bars of their cell.

DJ Yap

Killed for resisting

A WOMAN was shot to death by robbers after she refused to give up her bag in Tondo, Manila early yesterday morning. Police identified the victim as Irene Campos, of Carlos Planas Street in Tondo. Her 22-year-old son, Marlon, was also shot when he tried to help her and had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. Investigation conducted by the Manila Police District (MPD) showed that the victim, a fruit vendor, was on her way home at around 6:30 a.m. when four men blocked her path.

Margaux C. Ortiz

DID YOU KNOW

FOUNDED on Oct. 16, 1852, Destileria Limtuaco & Co. Inc. is the first liquor firm in Southeast Asia. It was put up by Lim Tua Co—then a 36-year-old immigrant from Amoy, China—in Binondo to produce Vino de Chino or Sioktong, a medicinal wine made from Chinese herbs. The secret formula of the drink had been with Lim Tua Co's family for five generations. The distillery started producing western-style liquors in 1926 before it transferred to Caloocan in 1939.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Iraq gov't vows action to deal with violence

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S SHIITE-DOMINATED Interior Ministry, whose police forces have been accused of complicity in sectarian attacks, has fired 3,000 employees accused of corruption or rights abuses and will change top commanders, a spokesperson said.

Thousands have died this year in the cycle of killings between Shiite and Sunni death squads. At least 22 were killed Saturday, mainly in sectarian attacks.

Authorities also said they discovered the headless bodies of 17 Shiite construction workers in an orchard outside Baghdad, kidnapped and decapitated in apparent retaliation for an attack on Sunni Arabs last week.

The decapitated corpses were found Friday outside the city of Duluiyah, 45 miles north of Baghdad, along with four other unknown victims, also beheaded.

The killings of the workers came after the kidnapping Wednesday of three Sunni Arabs in Duluiyah by a Shiite militia based in Balad, police said. The three were killed and their bodies burned. After the discovery of the bodies late Friday and early Saturday, Sunni families living near Balad were starting to flee their homes, fearing Shiite retaliation.

Amid the growing tensions between Sunni Arabs and Shiites, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah met Saturday with prominent Iraqi clerics from both sects in the Islamic holy city of Mecca and urged them to seek an end to the violence to allow the two sides to reconcile.

"My brothers, we need now patience, calmness and quiet to get to know each other," the king told them.

Spokesperson Abdul-Karim Khalaf said the Interior Ministry shake-up would ensure stronger action to stop the violence.

"We are working on reshuffling the ministry's vital posts like (the leaders of the) police commandos and public order forces, as well as some undersecretaries," he told The Associated Press.

He said most of the 3,000 employees who had been removed since May were suspected of corruption or human rights violations, but did not specify whether they were involved in militia activities. Up to 600 of them will face prosecution, he said.

The Shiite-led national police force, controlled by the Interior Ministry, is widely accused of being infiltrated by Shiite militias blamed in slayings of Sunni Arabs. Critics say Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has been reluctant to move against the militias since many are linked to parties in his coalition. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Over 200 ill after gas leak

RAIPUR, INDIA—About 200 people were admitted to hospitals with severe breathing problems after an unknown gas leaked from an industrial plant near Bhopal in central India, officials said on Sunday. The accident occurred late on Saturday in Raisen district, which lies adjacent to Bhopal where more than 3,500 people died in December 1984 after gas leaked from an Union Carbide pesticide plant into the city's atmosphere. "People are complaining of severe breathing problems and many are complaining of itching in their eyes," Arun Kumar Bhatt, Raisen's district collector, told Reuters by phone on Sunday. Authorities in Raisen were trying to find out whether the leaked gas was ammonia or chlorine. *Reuters*

Italian journalist missing

ROME—An Italian freelance photojournalist missing in Afghanistan is believed to have been kidnapped, Italy's foreign ministry told AFP Sunday. "All the indications show that it is a kidnapping and we are treating it as such," the ministry's press office said. The Nato force said in Kabul on Saturday that the photographer had been out of contact for several days, but could not confirm reports of a kidnapping. The missing journalist, Gabriele Torsello, is based in London. He "has been out of contact for the last two to three days," International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) spokesperson Major Dominic Whyte told AFP in Kabul. The photographer was "out of mobile contact," Whyte said. *AFP*

Swedish minister quits

STOCKHOLM—Trade Minister Maria Borelius resigned Saturday amid mounting allegations of tax evasion, just eight days after taking office with Sweden's new center-right government. Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt insisted the resignation would not affect the stability of his four-party coalition, which took office on Oct. 6, ending 12 years of Social Democratic rule. "She feels that she cannot carry on and we have agreed that she should resign," Reinfeldt told public broadcaster Swedish Radio. Borelius, 46, came under intense pressure this week after Swedish media revealed she had hired a nanny in the 1990s without reporting it to tax authorities and paying the required employment fees. *AP*

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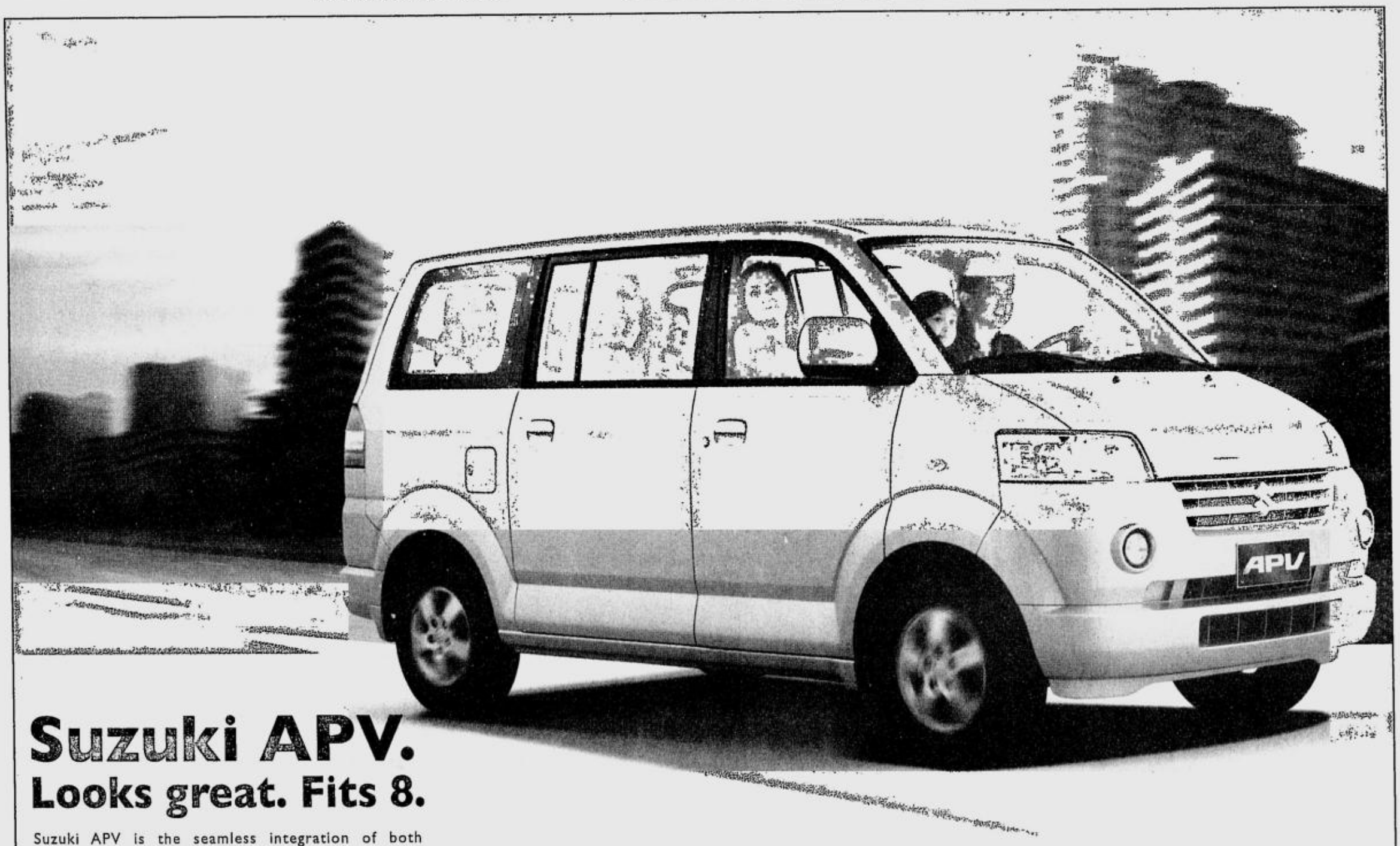

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel calls for tough UN action on Iran

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE United Nations Sunday urged the Security Council to take tough measures against "demented" Iran for its nuclear program in the wake of North Korea's declared atomic test.

"The international community should learn the lessons of what occurred in North Korea," Danny Gillerman told army radio. "North Korea was only the preview. Iran will be the feature film, which, if no one takes serious action, will be projected throughout the whole world."

Gillerman called for "much harder sanctions to be imposed on a demented Iranian regime that seeks to destroy a UN member state (Israel), and totally denies the Holocaust, while preparing to perpetrate a second Holocaust." But, "I do not anticipate more significant and firmer sanctions against Iran than those being considered for North Korea."

Opening the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said the situation in Iran and North Korea would dominate his visit this week to Russia, which is helping Tehran build its first atomic power plant at Bushehr.

"The Iranian threat and the developments in the nuclear issue in North Korea will without any doubt be at the center of our talks," Olmert said.

On Tuesday Israel said it feared North Korea could transfer nuclear technology to Iran, after Pyongyang announced it had carried out its first nuclear test.

Israeli leaders called for the North Korean test to serve as a wake up call to the international community on the risks of nuclear proliferation and prompt a zero-tolerance policy with Tehran.

The Islamic republic says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes but the West fears it is a cover for obtaining atomic weapons. *AFP*

We're not intimidated—Iran

TEHRAN—THREATS MADE BY Western countries to slap sanctions on Iran over its controversial nuclear program were "psychological warfare," the country's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Saturday.

Mohammad Ali Hosseini said Iran was not intimidated by threats to impose sanctions and repeated his country's pledge to continue pursuing its nuclear program, according to Iran's state-run television on a report posted on its English web site.

Hosseini "ruled out Western threats of sanctions against Iran as sheer psychological warfare," the web site reported.

Repeated attempts by the UN Security Council's five permanent members and Germany to entice Iran into negotiations on its nuclear program caved earlier this month over Tehran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment.

The six nations have agreed to start working on UN sanctions against Iran next week, diplomats and officials have said, but they still have to bridge differences on what the sanctions should be.

Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Saturday did not provide details about possible sanctions but said that a package of incentives aimed at persuading Iran to halt enrichment was still being offered.

Iran has said it would not suspend uranium enrichment as a precondition to negotiations about its nuclear program.

The United States and some of its allies claim Tehran is secretly developing nuclear weapons, but Iran insists its program is solely for generating electricity. *AP*

Thaksin can return, says new Thai PM

BANGKOK—OUSTED PRIME MINister Thaksin Shinawatra can return to Thailand if he wants, but must wait until political tension eases following last month's military coup, the country's new leader said.

Thaksin was in New York for the UN General Assembly when military leaders seized power. He has not returned to Thailand since the Sept. 19 coup, opting to stay in London.

Interim Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont told reporters late Saturday he had spoken with Thaksin, but did not give the date of their conversation. He said authorities would have to see when would be the right time for Thaksin to return.

"If he wants to come back, that's his right, but I have to talk to the other sides involved," Surayud said. "What's most important is to see if the situation in the country has eased and if it's appropriate for him to come back."

Coup leaders have said the military intervened and seized power last month because intelligence showed the likelihood of imminent, violent clashes between Thaksin's supporters and opponents in Bangkok.

The Council for National Security—as the coup leaders are called—will provide information to Surayud about internal security and when Thaksin can return, said Chalit Phukphasuk, the air force commander and one of the coup's leaders.

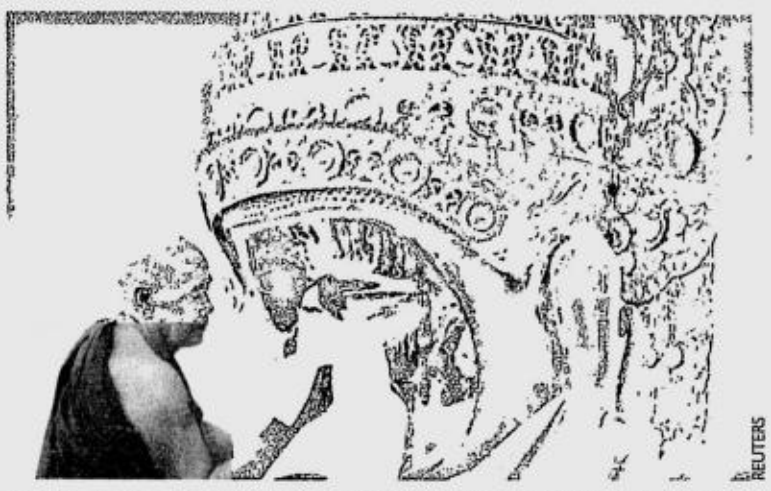
Defense Minister Gen. Bunrod Somtad said Thaksin will have to wait until after martial law is lifted before returning to Thailand, local television ITV reported.

"It's up to Thaksin to see if it's appropriate for him to come back," Bunrod told reporters Sunday, but he voiced concern that Thaksin's return could increase political tension and lead to violence.

Bunrod said last week that martial law, imposed after the coup, should remain in place for at least another month.

Despite Thaksin's popularity with the poor, he was almost universally opposed by the country's elite, who accused him of widespread corruption and abuse of power. Massive anti-Thaksin rallies were staged in Bangkok for several months earlier this year.

Surayud, who was appointed interim prime minister on Oct. 1, made his first official trip abroad to Laos on Saturday, and went to Cambodia on Sunday. He is scheduled to visit Malaysia this week. *AP*



REUTERS

PEACE OFFERING. Yedaw Saya Daw, a monk from Burma, washes the face of a Buddhist statue during South Korean Buddhists' special devotional service praying for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas.

US population to hit 300 million this week

WASHINGTON—THE US POPULation will hit the historic milestone of 300 million this week but no one can say who or where the person who tips the scale will be on that day.

According to the US Census Bureau, the 300th million resident will clock in on Tuesday at about 7:46 a.m. (1146 GMT) based on an algorithm that takes into account birth rates, death rates and rates of international migration.

The Census Bureau estimates that an American is born every seven seconds, one dies every 13 seconds and a migrant crosses into the country every 31 seconds. The result is an increase in the total population of one person every 11 seconds.

A spokesperson for the Census Bureau said that with that formula in mind, it is near impossible to determine whether the 300th million resident will be a newborn, an immigrant coming across the border or someone flying into the United States.

"It would be very difficult to say who the 300th million person is just because of the number of people that move in and out of the country and also because of the range of births that take place," Stephen Buckner told AFP.

He said that no special celebrations were planned for Tuesday's milestone, which makes the United States the third most populous country in the world after China and India and which comes almost 39 years after the 200 million benchmark was reached on Nove. 20, 1967.

At that time Lyndon B. Johnson was president, color television was the rage and the country was preoccupied with the Vietnam War.

Today's America under President George W. Bush is mad about iPods and is engaged in wars on two fronts—Afghanistan and Iraq.

Illegal immigration, mainly from Latin America, is nowadays also a hot-button issue being played up in upcoming legislative elections in November.

According to the Census Bureau, 14 percent of the current US population is Hispanic, compared to four percent in 1968, and it is projected that 25 percent of the population will be Hispanic in 2050.

It is also expected that in the next 50 years there will be more Hispanic births in the United States than immigrants.

William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington and a professor at the University of Michigan, said the changing ethnic makeup of the United States and the new immigrants should be welcomed, rather than scorned, as they represent the future of the country.

"What the new population growth represents is a return to our immigrant past," he said. *AFP*

FATF removes Burma from money launder list

VANCOUVER—AN INTERNAtional force to fight money laundering and terrorist funding removed Burma (Myanmar) from its list of countries refusing to cooperate, the Financial Action Task Force said Friday.

"Myanmar has made good progress in implementing its anti-money laundering system," Frank Swedlove, president of the world's money policing agency, FATF, told a press conference at the close of the organization's 18th session here.

Since 2000, he said, 23 nations the agency listed as "noncooperative countries and territories" have "made significant progress" and have been taken off the list.

But, Swedlove called the fight against money laundering for terrorism and crime "an ongoing battle ... we don't pretend that we can eradicate it." He said that even as cooperative countries close loopholes, such as by using FATF compliance standards, criminals come up with more ways to beat the system, "and we have to be more effective at closing them off." The FATF is an international body that develops and promotes policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

This session of the task force, attended by 33 member countries, included for the first time South Korea as an observer.

South Korea's rival North Korea has been accused of counterfeiting US currency by the Washington, which late last year slapped Pyongyang with sanctions.

The task force issued two major reports, on new payment technologies and what the FATF calls "corporate vehicles." The FATF signalled that it is moving to prevent criminals from using new payment technologies to launder money and finance terrorism. *AFP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Tigers ride high on drama to book World Series slot /A30

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Roberto Duran enshrined in Hall of Fame /A30

Miñoza, Pagunsan finish strong; Goosen at it again

SANYA, CHINA—FRANKIE MIÑOZA and Juvic Pagunsan underscored their status as the Philippines' top two golfers with a strong windup in the Volkswagen Masters China tournament won again by South African star Retief Goosen on Sunday.

Miñoza, taking a break from his Japan Tour schedule, closed with a three-under-par 69 to finish in solo eighth place at 278.

Pagunsan, in his rookie season as a pro after a big amateur career, rallied with his best round of 68 for a 279 total and a tie for ninth with four others.

After starting with a 73, Miñoza slowly moved up the leaderboard with rounds of 69-67. He turned in nines of 36-33 Sunday.

MIÑOZA: Eleven under in last 3 days

Pagunsan, who easily hurdled the Asian Tour qualifying last February, had earlier scores of 72-69-70. He mounted a final-round charge by gunning down eight birdies only to be slowed down by a couple of double bogeys in a 34-34 card.

Tony Lascuña, the best Filipino after 54 holes at seventh, faded to a 74 and landed in a six-way tie for 18th at 281.

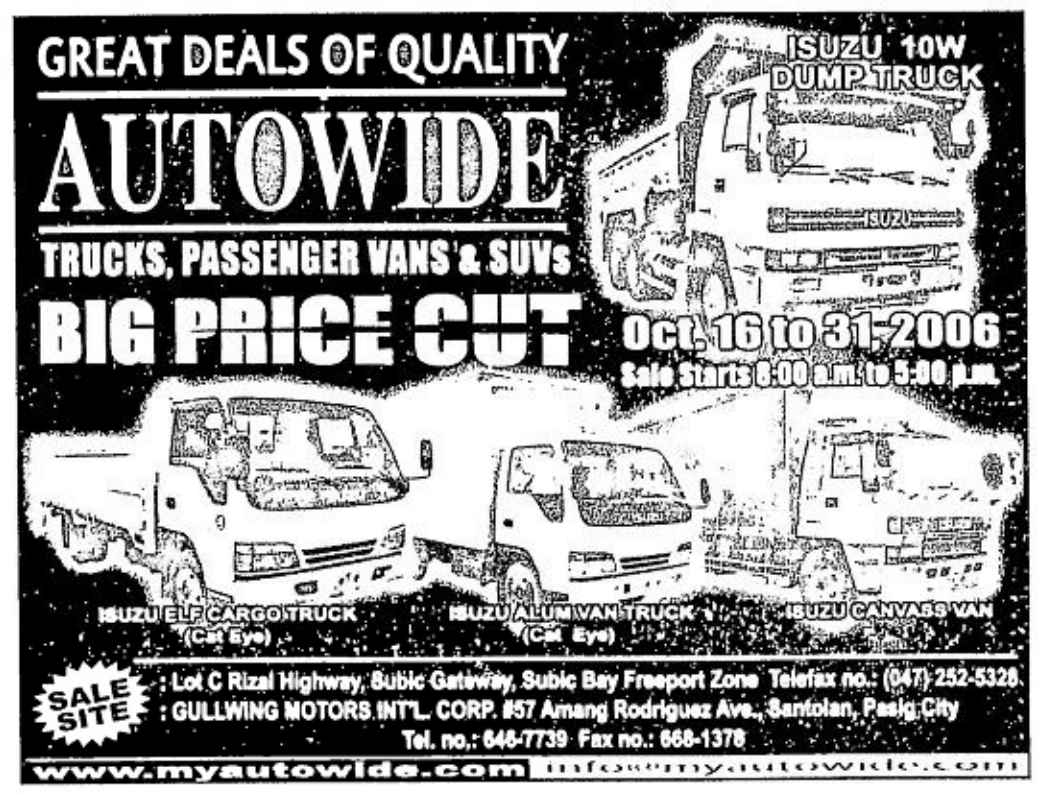
Gerald Rosales finished at 285 and Jerome Delariarte at 290.

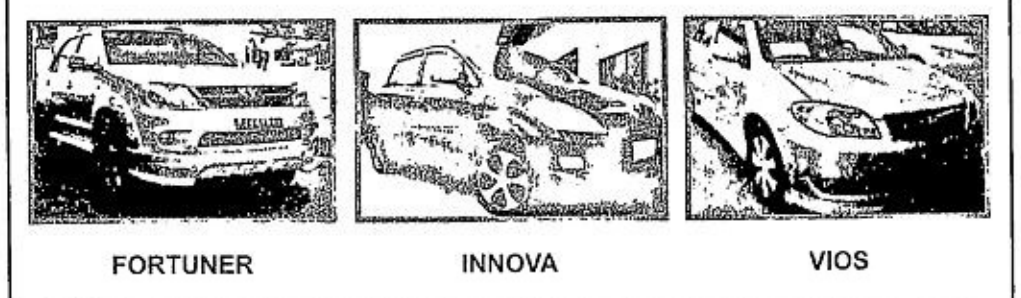
Goosen, the world No. 7, closed with a 71 and finished with an impressive 21-under-par 267 total at Yalong Bay Golf Club for his 26th career victory and first this year.

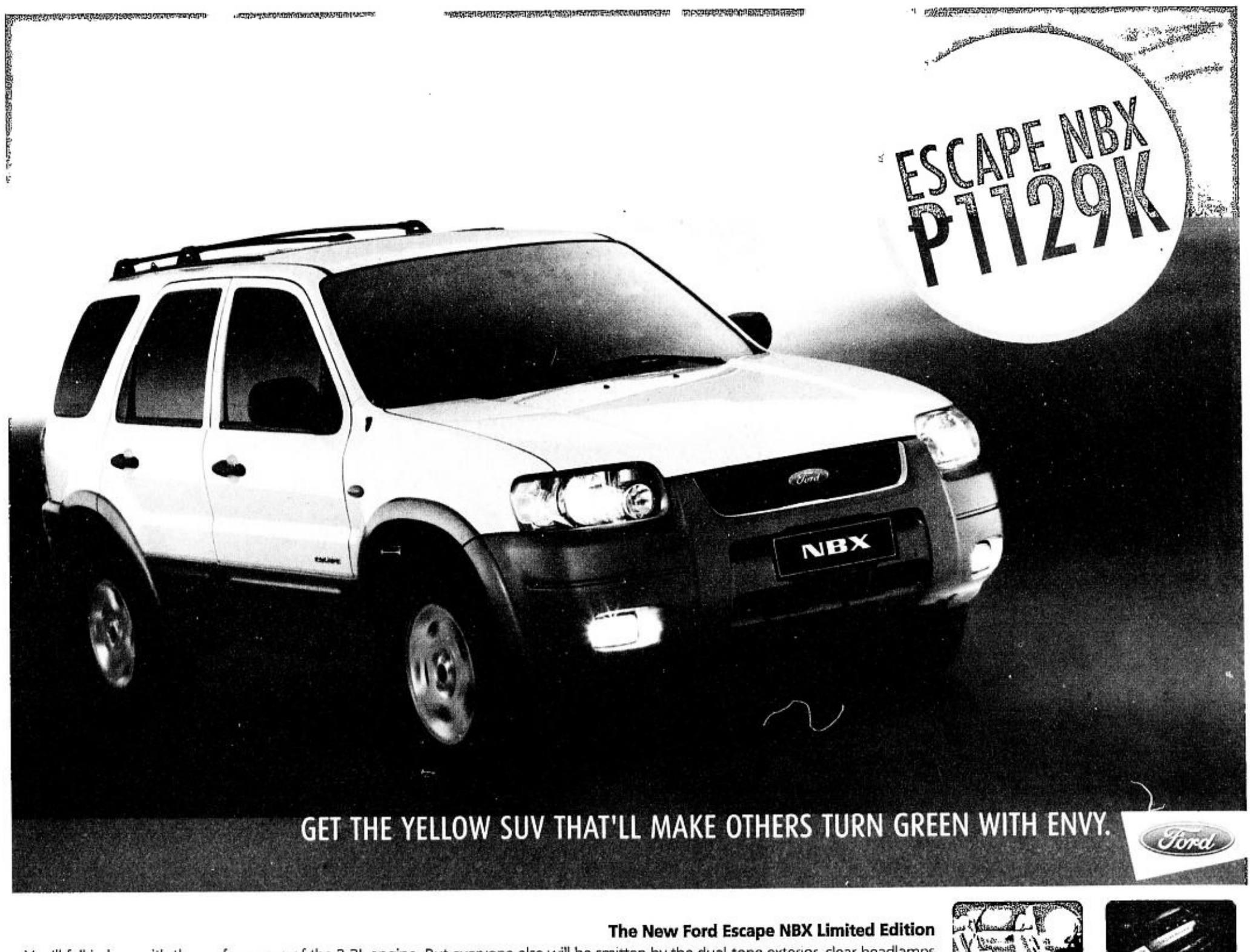
New Zealand's 2005 US Open champ Michael Campbell was runner-up for the second straight year after a 68 (270). Scotsman Simon Dunn came in third, four behind the champion, after a 68.

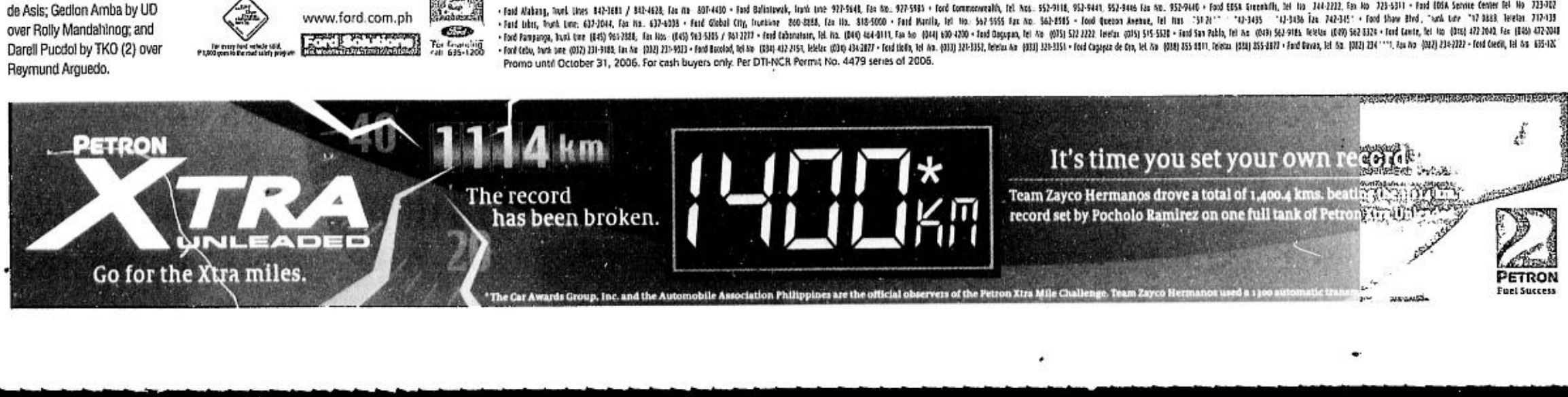
Thailand's Prayad Marksaeng fired a 64 and surged into a share of fourth with Britain's Yasin Ali.

"It's a great feeling to defend a title," said Goosen, who picked up $47,550. *AFP*









Suico halts Thai, captures OPBF title

By Salven Lagumbay
Contributor

WORLD-RANKED Randy Suico bagged the Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) lightweight crown with a fourth-round technical knockout over Thailand's Pongpetch Chuwatana Saturday night at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

The end came in 2 minutes 8 seconds of the fourth round after Chuwatana went down for the second time following big uppercuts by the hard-hitting Suico.

Referee Bruce McTavish did not bother to count after the second knockdown. Dr. Jose Unabia later closed a big cut on Chuwatana's face at the hospital.

It was the 25th win (22 by KOs) against three losses for Suico, who is ranked No. 9 by the World Boxing Council and No. 15 by the World Boxing Association.

"I'll give him maybe three more fights, then another possible crack at a world title," said manager Joe Koizumi of Suico, who lost to WBA lightweight champ Juan Diaz several months ago.

In the chief support, RP super flyweight champ Eden Sonsona came back strong to stop the erstwhile unbeaten Jerope Mercado in the ninth round.

Mercado, who was leading slightly on two judges' scorecard before the stoppage, went down twice in the ninth following big lefts by Sonsona.

Other results: Apol Sulco by KO (1) over Jun Pader; Benedict Sulco by KO (2) over Edwin Ubatay; Boggie Delada by TKO (1) over Mario de Asis; Gedion Amba by UD over Rolly Mandahinog; and Darell Pucdol by TKO (2) over Reymund Arguedo.

Big Deb, Daquis score shocker

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—BIG DEB, AN AMERICAN-born filly that practically did not merit a second look, came charging back from dead last under veteran Manolito Daquis to rule the 2006 Klub Don Juan Derby in sensational style yesterday.

Sent off as the far sixth choice in the eight-horse field, Big Deb shot through a small hole in the final straight to prevail by four lengths over second choice Fairy Queen and highlight the day's domination by the imports.

Daquis churned out a victory in his only ride for the day with Big Deb's coronation as the best 3-year-old in the land shocking the huge crowd at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here after cornering only P18,133 in sales out of the total pool of P911,351.

"I knew that she would finish strong, I felt her give me some more in the backstretch," Daquis told the INQUIRER. "The distance fit her style well and I found that opening in the final turn which spelled the victory."

One of the first products of the Jockeys' Academy, the 40-year-old Daquis booted home the daughter of Louis Quatorze and Derby Dot Com in 2 minutes and 8 seconds over the punishing 2,000-meter grind to give owner Florentino Cayco the P1.15-million winner's prize.

Fairy Queen, ridden by Lord Santos, checked in two lengths ahead of Manhattan, another longshot, for the P430,000 runner-up prize, while Hear Me, the coupled entry of fancied Don Exequiel, salvaged fourth place for Hermie Esguerra.

Don Exequiel, who was partnered by ace Jonathan Hernandez, did not get the chance to set the pace he wanted and labored hard in front, yielding to the hard-finishing cavalry in the far turn to finish out of the money.

Hall of Fame enshrines Duran

LOS ANGELES—ROBERTO DURAN ONCE said, "There is only one legend. That's me."

As he was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame Saturday night, there was no reason for him to think differently.

"That's right, it's me," he declared through an interpreter minutes before his introduction. "Everybody says it: black, white; everybody calls me a legend. Italians, Jews. Everybody."

Duran, 51, looked little like the man who won five major titles while compiling a 103-16 record with 69 knockouts between 1972-1989.

When he was introduced, he walked into the ballroom carrying a flag of his native Panama, having just minutes earlier said that his induction was important not only for himself "but for the whole country of Panama and for my president. All of Panama is going into that Hall of Fame."

Duran was the biggest name of the 13 inductees that included former champions Matthew Saad Muhammad, Julian Jackson and Eddie Perkins, and announcer Barry Tompkins, and it seemed as if all of the nearly 900 attendees wanted to catch a glimpse, get an autograph or tell of their favorite Duran moment or fight.

That was the case earlier Saturday when, at an autograph session, an estimated 300 people mobbed him and waited in line for his signature.

At the ceremony, Hall-of-Fame referee Gwen Adair's most memorable Duran moment was when Duran famously quit during the eighth round of his second fight with Sugar Ray Leonard.

"I was shocked he said 'No mas,'" Adair said.

For some, it was the knockout of Ken Buchanan on June 26, 1972, that gave Duran his first major title, the WBA lightweight crown.

Others thought his decision over Iran Barkley in 1989 that gave Duran the WBC middleweight crown was best. *AP*

DURAN

Tigers ride high on drama to book World Series slot

DETROIT—MAGGLIO ORDONEZ HIT his second homer of the game with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, giving the Detroit Tigers a 6-3 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Saturday and sending them to Major League Baseball's World Series for the first time since 1984.

The three-run homer to left completed Detroit's four-game sweep of the Athletics in the American League championship series and earned it a meeting against the New York Mets or St. Louis Cardinals starting next Saturday at home.

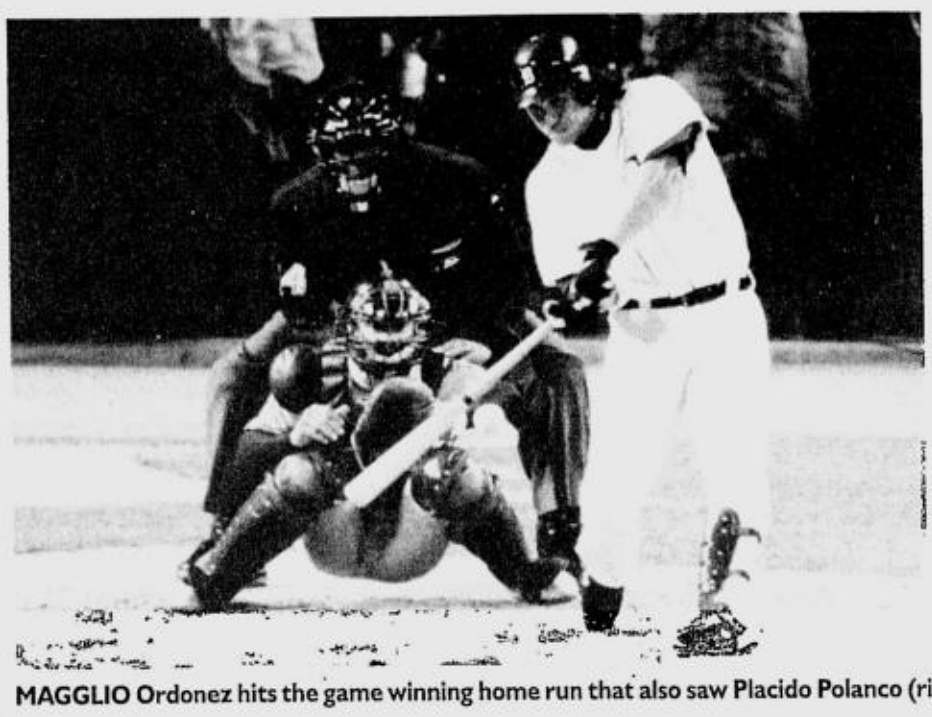
After posting the worst record in MLB over the past 13 seasons, including losing 119 games in 2003, the Tigers turned around their fortunes in their first year under manager Jim Leyland.

With the crowd of 42,967 at Comerica Park in delirium, joined by fans watching from distant downtown buildings, the Tigers celebrated.

Members of the Tigers' bullpen rushed in from left field and nearly beat Ordonez to the plate as fans twirled white towels.

Down 3-0 early, the Tigers clawed back to tie it against Dan Haren when Ordonez hit a solo home run in the sixth inning to get Detroit going.

Then after Craig Monroe and series most valuable player award winner Placido Polanco singled with two outs in the ninth off Huston Street, Ordonez launched his drive over the wall.



MAGGLIO Ordonez hits the game winning home run that also saw Placido Polanco (right photo) score.

As the Tigers celebrated, Leyland walked across the field to Oakland's first-base dugout to congratulate the A's. He had special words for A's slugger Frank Thomas, who went 0-for-13 in the series.

Cardinals take control

At St. Louis, Jeff Suppan just about did it all for St. Louis, hitting a rare home run and pitching a tidy masterpiece that gave the Cardinals control in the NL championship series against the suddenly s[illegible] gering New York Mets via a 5-0 victor[illegible]

Scott Spiezio hit another key triple [illegible] the Cardinals dazzled on defense, d[illegible] nating the Mets to take a 2-1 lead i[illegible] best-of-seven series. New York lost s[illegible] ing pitcher Steve Trachsel to injury. *AP*

Emir's son planes in with Asiad torch today

THE TORCH OF THE 15TH Asian Games will arrive in Manila from Busan, South Korea, today as part of the multination torch relay that will end in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1, official start of the quadrennial competition.

The torch will be carried by His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani, son of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar.

The younger Al-Thani will plane in at 5:30 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on board a Qatar Amiri-Royal flight, accompanied by an 80-man entourage.

The actual relay in Manila is scheduled on Wednesday. It will kick off at the Rizal Park and go around 10 cities in Metro Manila.

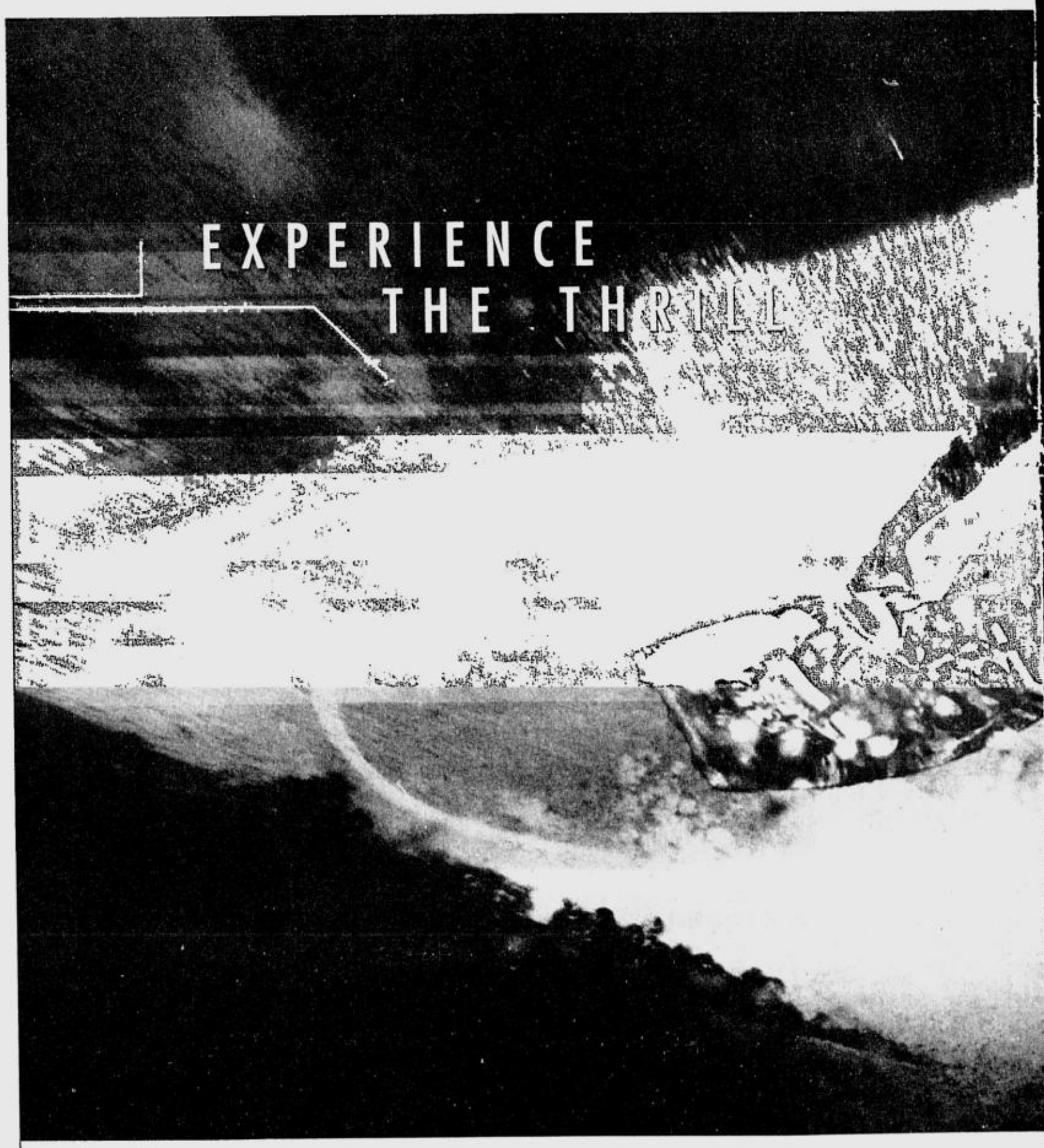
From Manila, the torch will be flown to Hiroshima, Japan, site of the 1994 Asiad, on Oct. 20.

For 50 days, the torch, shaped like the curved horns of the Arabian oryx, Qatar's national animal, will be carried 50,000 kilometers across 15 countries before returning to Qatar. *Nikko Dizon*

SO YOUNG, SO QUICK: TJ Alberto makes a flying finish in Talisay City, where the national junior champion, riding for KTM-To Go-Access Plus, overcame a slippery course and the challenge of overall leader Jacob Orbe to rule the fourth leg of the 2006 National Motocross Championship series recently. The Grade 3 student of Xavier School dominated the two races in the 9-and-below class to post an upset victory in the event held at the Talisay Stadium.

UAAP scribes honor season's top players

PIDO JARENCIO AND THE STARS OF his overachieving Santo Tomas Tigers will be honored by the UAAP Press Corps in an awards ceremony at 10:30 a.m. today at the Pantalan Restaurant. Jarencio will receive the Coach of the Year plum for steering the Tigers to the championship on his rookie year. Finals Most Valuable Player Jojo Duncil will also be cited as Mr. Clutch, Dylan Ababou as Sixth Man and Jervy Cruz as Defensive Player of the Year for UST, which downed the favored Ateneo Blue Eagles in their best-of-three series for the UAAP crown yesterday. Other top individual performers include Ateneo's JC Intal (Player of the Year), Adamson's Ken Bono (Scoring Champion), Ateneo's Chris Tiu (Comeback Player), UP's Marvin Cruz (Most Improved), FEU's Jeff Chan (Sportsmanship) and UE's Marcy Arellano (Energy Player). The late Santo Tomas Tigers guard John Lee Apil will be honored with a Posthumous Award. Apil, a member of last year's UST squad and similarly credited by the Tigers for their miracle title season, died of electrocution after saving two children in a swimming pool accident. *Jasmine W. Payo*



Government Warning: Cigarette sm

Manila Polo Club tops Battle of the Courts elims

By Jong Arcano

MANILA POLO CLUB RETURNED to the Battle of the Courts badminton championship after a stunning disqualification last year with a scrambling victory in the second eliminations leg yesterday.

Judy Lim, the player whose eligibility woes caused the team's banishment in 2005, fittingly took up the cudgels for her squad by teaming up with Mariel Tiangco in a marathon ladies doubles victory that sparked Manila Polo's vengeful win over Valle Verde in the final of the event presented by Rush Fitness Water, INQUIRER Badminton and Mizuno Badminton.

Lim and Tiangco recovered from an opening-set loss to beat Beth Ng and Cherry Go Tian, 22-24, 21-19, 21-18, before Ito Puyat and Luz Siguion Reyna wrapped up the match for Manila Polo by downing Germing Chuahiong/Dina Guerrero, 21-18, 21-16, in mixed doubles.

With the issue settled, Manila Polo's men's doubles pair of Anthony Cheng and Joseph Tan just joined their teammates and other supporters in the victory celebration at the Club 650 courts.

As the leg winner, Manila Polo clinched the top seeding in one of the three groups during the grand finals where they will be joined by 11 other qualifiers from the previous leg and the last stop on Oct. 28-29 at the Las Piñas Badminton Center.

Valle Verde still made it to the grand finals though, along with Club 650 and Excel of Pampanga which finished third and fourth in the leg, respectively.

The other sponsors of the Battle of the Courts are Duty Free Philippines, BSI medicated spray, Unilever and Gerflor Taraflex as the official mat. Radio partners are Wave 89.1 and 92.3 Joey.

Manila Polo and Valle Verde figured in a three-way tie with Celebrity Sports for the two slots in Group 2 at 4-1 after Manila Polo scored a crucial 3-0 sweep of Celebrity in their final eliminations game.

In the ensuing tiebreak determined by the number of matches won, Manila Polo took the top slot with 13, followed by Valle with 12 while Celebrity lost out with 10.

Manila Polo was disqualified last year due to Lim's status as a member of the national training pool which the team furiously questioned.

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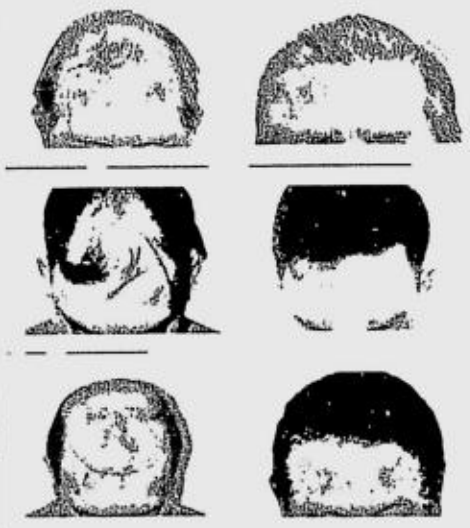
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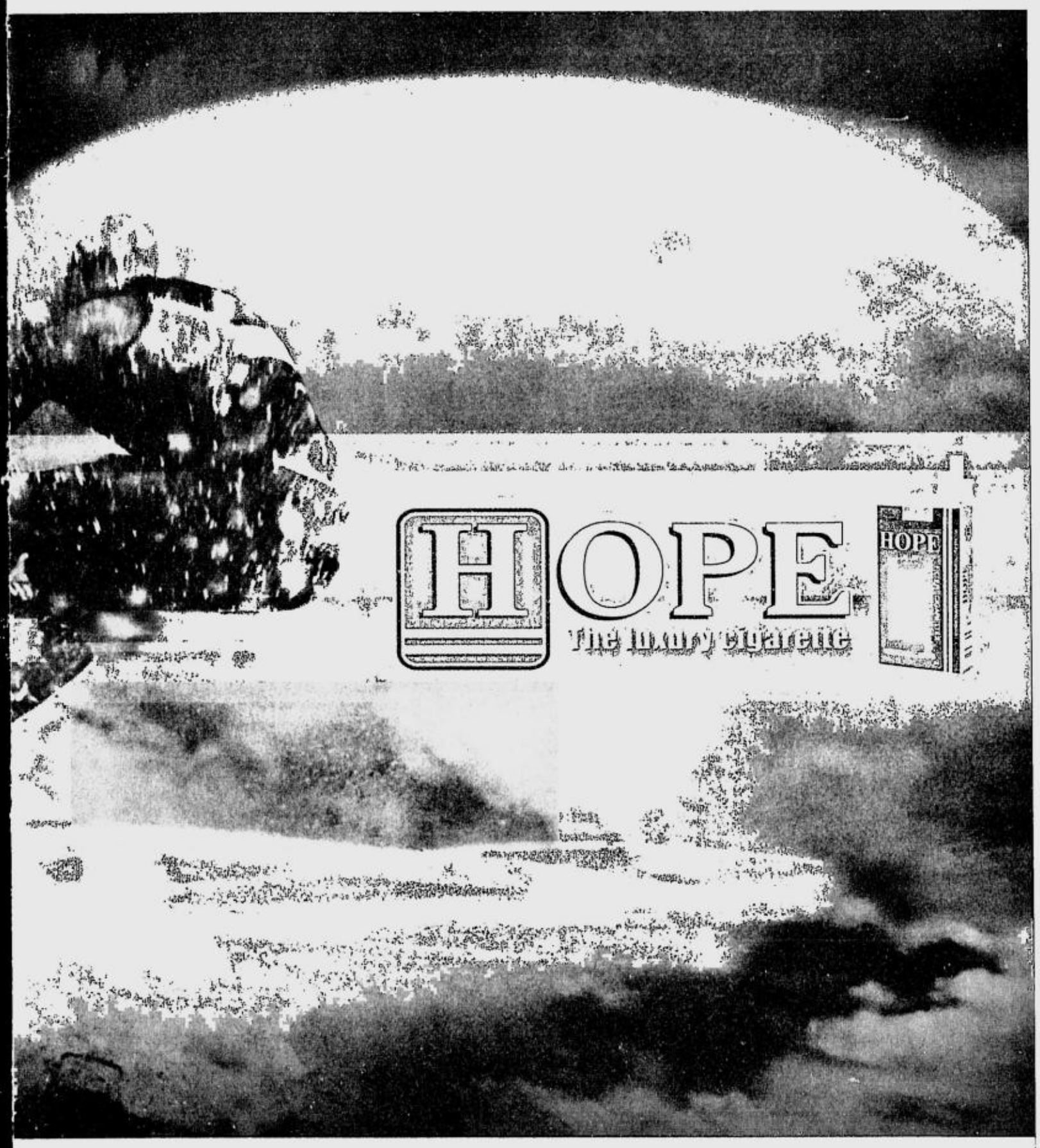

noking is dangerous to your health.

Did Bata, our Magician, lose to a trick artist?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ALL THE GREAT DOLLARS, crisp and in fat bundles, were there, freshly popped from a black leather luggage, for the whole world to see.

The entire loot was being fondled by a wide-eyed Efren "Bata" Reyes, pride of the Philippines, who won the $500,000 top prize in the International Pool Tour 8-Ball championship, richest in game history.

Bata, the Magician, smiled what could go down as his sweetest toothless smile—while scooping up the hoard—which would be flashed in front-page photos the morning after.

From Reno, Nevada, tournament site, it was all very real for Bata and his overjoyed fans back home—victory at its sweetest, richest.

* * *

Then in a jiffy, all the money was gone, everything disappeared into thin air.

It was not easy to say how the $500,000, shown and there for everybody to admire, suddenly disappeared.

But, as facts would bear it out after Bata had returned home, there was no money, not a single cent, after all.

The big dollars were there, all right, but these were all meant for the photo ops, which definitely projected IPT as the greatest pool show on earth.

Bata, besieged by friends and countless others who usually get their post-victory gifts from their idol, tried to play it cool.

He would say it was not unusual for these big prizes to be delayed.

* * *

Of course, Bata, seemingly unruffled, has every reason to feel a little worried.

Latest word from the IPT says Bata's check has been scheduled for mailing.

This was exactly the same thing we had been hearing since it was first exposed that Bata did win the grand IPT title but failed to pocket a single cent of the $500,000 top money.

Anyway, now that there was no more high-earning television replay of Bata's victory that could be rapped by unsavory publicity, concerned parties have come forward. Not only to warn Bata, but to protect other Filipino players in what threatens to explode as the biggest hoax in the history of world pool.

For one, we've been informed that the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines, for its part, is forming an investigative panel which would communicate with the IPT for the official status of Bata's missing prize—and the troubled organization itself.

While waiting for developments, we also asked around and got alarming tips on the person and style of Kevin Trudeau, the man behind IPT, who once allegedly claimed to have invented a cure for diabetes and cancer.

We also received a concerned communication, which we hereby share with you:

* * *

Dear pool fans,

Efren, like the other players, got no promised date for payment.

They got an e-mail from Trudeau asking for patience because he (Trudeau) was supposed to be in negotiations for the sale of IPT to Stanley Ho.

Presumably, success of the sale will produce the money to pay the players.

But no one puts much faith that this would succeed because Trudeau had declared several times before that he had succeeded in selling IPT to several investors, first to a British group allegedly for $150 million, then to Ho.

Main point: IPT held the Reno event but it did not have the $3 million prize money.

In the World Pool Championship, Matchroom Sports pays players within two days after taxes are deducted.

Hence, the alarm today in the United States.

If the prize is still not paid by the end of October, we can say goodbye to IPT and Efren's half-million dollars.

Yours in the spirit of clean competition,

Name Withheld

* * *

Well, the prayer here is for Kevin Trudeau to be able to work his magic and make Bata's big dollars reappear.

Look, Bata may continue to flash his sweet, enigmatic smile through thick and thin. He could just shrug his shoulder and say: what the heck, all in the game.

Of course, there's deep concern among Bata's fans that jubilated as one and went on to rank him as a more relevant sportsman than Manny Pacquiao after that IPT win in Reno in the greatest September of his years.

The way things have dragged, it's only Kevin Trudeau who can stop the world from suspecting that Bata The Magician has allowed himself to be outhustled by a bigger trick artist.

Sorry, but the latest score shows Bata on the verge of losing, with the prospective winner scoring big in a match he has perfected under the pool table.

Coach E list-up extended

COACH E BASKETBALL SCHOOL'S SAN BEDA-ALABANG CLASSES ON Tuesdays and Saturdays formally end Oct. 17 as enrollment in four other venues remain open due to numerous requests. International Basketball Academy president Xavy Nunag yesterday said the school was overwhelmed by the acceptance of the school's scientific and personalized approach to teaching basketball. Kids who want to enroll in any of the five Coach E venues may call 6311195 or 09217562639 for details on Metro Manila venues and 043-7566265, 043-3124626 and 09178422403 for Mt. Malarayat. San Beda classes are every Tuesday (5:30 pm to 7:30 pm) and Saturday (10 am to 12 noon). Mt. Malarayat's classes are slated 3-5 p.m. every Saturday while those in Clubsixfifty in Libis are every Friday and (5 to 7 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 12 noon). The Zone classes are every Wednesday (5 to 7 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 12 noon). Xavier School classes are Mondays (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and Thursdays (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.).

SPORTS

DAGUPAN MILO ELIMS

Baguio runners show 'em

DAGUPAN CITY—JOEL BENGTAY, A CARPENTER from Baguio City, and Catherine Joyce Reglos, a cadet fourth class at the Philippine Military Academy, ruled the qualifying race of the 30th National Milo Marathon here yesterday.

The 25-year-old Bengtay paced himself early in the 21K foot race and stepped on the gas with two kilometers left to claim his first leg title with a time of 1 hour 16 minutes and 31 seconds.

Kiven Areglado settled for second place in 1:17:07 while his Lyceum Dagupan teammate Julio Cabangon finished third in 1:19:23.

Bengtay said he had to take it easy due to a slight pain on his foot early in the event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

Rabino Javier actually finished third but was disqualified because he already ran in the Tarlac City race last month where he placed fifth.

Rules allow a runner to compete in any of the 29 elimination races all over the country but can claim a top 10 finish just once.

Reglos, a 19-year-old native of Pangil, Laguna, who went into long-distance running only at the PMA, won the women's race in 1:38:16.

Placing second was another Baguio runner, Librada Samson (1:39:22), while Leslie Herrero, a member of the canoe/kayak national pool from Taytay, Rizal, settled for third place in 1:44:50.

Bengtay and Reglos each won P10,000 and made it to the national finals set in Manila in December along with the No. 2 and No. 3 finishers.

Velasco Langpawen and Sandi Menchie prevailed in the 5K fun run while the 3K Kiddies age-group was dominated by Marco Riolada and Jeza Francisco in the 10-12 age group.

MILO Marathon leg winners Joel Bangtay and Catherine Reglos are flanked by Dagupan City Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez (left) and Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong at the awards rites.

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* See Flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4385 Series of 2006

Lady Pirates nail WNCAA cage crown

LYCEUM OUTCLASSED COLLEGE OF ST. Benilde, 44-35, Sunday to capture the Senior A basketball crown at the St. Scholastica's College gym and annex its second championship in the 37th season of the WNCAA.

Matsuno Machiko led all Lady Pirates scorers with 12 points, with Diana Reyes, Rowena San Juan and April Lualhati chipping in eight each.

Lyceum, which bagged the Senior A volleyball title over Rizal Technological University last weekend, won Game 1 in overtime, 42-20, but St. Benilde tied the series after a 51-48 victory in Game 2.

Lyceum's Lualhati was adjudged Senior A MVP and joined teammate Matsuno, St. Benilde's Leonette Salvacion, AMA Computer's Happy Kristine Ong and Centro Escolar's Aimie Cabangon in the Mythical Five.

The WNCAA season is presented by Adidas and supported by Solar Sports, Snickers chocolates, Club 650, Mikasa, Molten and Gosen.

In juniors action, St. Scholastica and Miriam College took the openers of their respective best-of-three Finals series.

St. Scholastica downed San Beda Alabang in straight sets, 25-14, 25-11, 25-22, in volleyball while Miriam edged Chiang Kai Shek College, 66-60, in basketball.

St. Scholastica and Miriam go for the title on Saturday.

Deposed defending champion De La Salle Zobel, behind Hannah Viterbo's game-high 25 points, salvaged third place with a 63-37 win over San Beda Alabang.

SPORTSWATCH

Skywalker cage clinic on

SAMBOY LIM'S SKYWALKER BASKETBALL CLINIC kicks off today at the Adidas Sports Kamp at The Fort in Taguig City. The series runs on Oct. 22 and 29 and on Nov. 5, 12 and 26. Sponsored by American Vinyl, Spalding, San Miguel Corp., Sara Lee, Cherifer and Proline, the cage clinic with the famed "Skywalker" of the Philippine Basketball Association will also feature veteran coaches Eric Sy, Tino Pinat, Bonbon Lim, Mel Candano and Carl Vendicacion. Samboy Lim will be happy to provide more details at 531-7554.

Sports chief for Santiago

ROBBIE PANGILINAN, MARKETING HEAD OF the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines, has been appointed city sports commissioner by Santiago Mayor Amy Navarro to lead her sports grassroots development program. Pangilinan also organizes chess, table tennis and billiards tournaments in Metro Manila and Isabela province. Navarro said he expects Pangilinan to organize regular tournaments to develop more athletes in the province. "From the start, sports has always been on top of my programs," she said.

PCAP stagfest in Makati

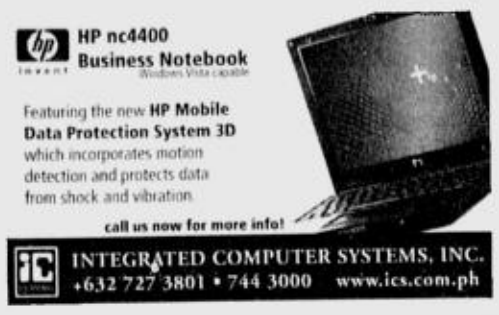
MORE THAN 70 QUALITY FIGHTS ARE SCHEDULED today in the sixth leg of Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby at at the Makati Coliseum with B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador as main backers. With three more stagfests left before the PCAP Stagfighter of the Year winner is known, competition is expected to shift into high gear, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

'Labanan' sizzles at SJC

THE THIRD ROUND OF ELIMINATIONS OF THE "NO Entry Fee Labanan" 7-stag derby series (Metro Manila leg) gets going at the San Juan Coliseum today with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 backing the 60-fight program. More than 200 entries have registered in this series which offers a guaranteed prize of P1.3 million. The champion handler wins P200,000. Round four will be staged at Pasay Cockpit on Oct. 20, with Araneta Coliseum hosting round five on Oct. 24. For inquiries, call 0916-4763030 or 0917-8064758.

Diamante tilt up at RMC

ROUND TWO OF THE DIAMANTE BROTHERS 5-Stag Derby gets going at Roligon Mega Cockpit at 5 p.m. today with 75 matches on tap. Sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone, the derby had seven participants tallying two wins each in last Saturday's first round: Muling Dorado, Ed Uytiepo, Boy Jiao, William Enriquez, DJ Arcenas and Boy Torres. The finals is on Wednesday. Promoter Rolly Ligon said admission price has been reduced to P300.



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Customs exceeds 9-month collection target

Even as typhoon causes shortfall in September

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS MISSED ITS REVENUE-COLlection target for September by 10.6 percent, its first one-month shortfall for the year.

Government documents showed that of the agency's P18.513-billion goal for the month, it collected only P16.556 billion in duties and taxes on imported goods.

Despite the shortfall, the BOC still managed to stay on track of its target for the January-to-September period due to the excess tax-take it recorded as of August.

Customs collections for the first nine months of the year stood at P143.92 billion, or P2.497 billion higher than the target of P141.426 billion. As of August, the collection was P7.3-billion higher than the eight-month target.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales earlier said the shortfall had to do partly with the power-supply outage caused by Typhoon Milenyo as the power outage hampered the electronic processing of documents on non-cash duty payments.

He said there were supposedly P1.4 billion worth of non-cash duty payments to be included in the agency's September collection, but could not be credited for last month because of processing delays.

Government agencies that import are allowed to pay duties in non-cash form, which are then deducted from their tax expenditure fund allotted by the national government.

The BOC's shortfall in September was contributed by 10 of the 16 customs districts nationwide that failed to meet their respective targets.

The biggest individual district shortfalls, or those beyond P100 million, were recorded by the Manila International Container Port (MICP), P1.075 billion; Ninoy Aquino International Air-

CUSTOMS/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Leviste's** disappearing act /B3

■ **Firms urge BOI** to grant them perks /B7

■ **RP poised** for higher growth in '07, UBS says /B12

Moody's seen upgrading RP outlook to 'positive'

INTERNATIONAL RATINGS FIRM MOODY'S Investors Service is expected to upgrade its outlook on the Philippines from "negative" to "stable" by the end of the year.

So said investment bank Barclays Capital, which based its optimistic forecast on the expected substantial drop in the national government's budget deficit that, in turn, will influence a better credit outlook for the country.

Among major international credit rating firms, only Moody's still keeps a "negative" outlook on the Philippines. Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's (S&P) have revised their outlook on the country to "stable" following improvements in the fiscal front.

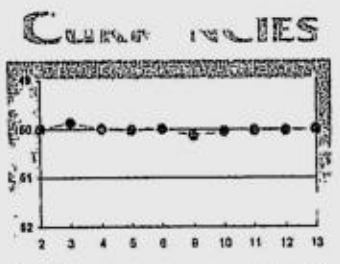
"One important point to note is that unlike in previous years, a significant proportion of this improvement (deficit reduction) came via increasing revenues. This should lead Moody's moving the outlook on its B1 sovereign rating to positive from negative," Barclays said in its recent assessment of the Philippines.

The fund manager made a forecast that the government's budget deficit for 2006 would settle at around P100 billion, or 20-percent better than the official target of P125 billion. Last year, the deficit hit P146.8 billion.

Barclays noted that in the first eight months of the year, the government's deficit amounted to only P34.2 billion, giving it enough elbow room to increase expenditures in the remaining months of the year. It said the government was likely to maximize the P46-billion supplemental budget in the remaining months, therefore increasing the deficit to P100 billion by year's end.

But while it expects Moody's to improve its outlook on the Philippines to "positive," Barclays does not expect an immediate credit-rating upgrade by S&P, saying that sustained improvement on the fiscal front was required to merit a credit-rating upgrade.

A "negative" outlook indicates that a country faces the threat of a downgrade in its credit rating, while a "stable" outlook reflects the likelihood that a certain rating will be maintained within the short term. A "positive" outlook indicates the possibility of a credit rating upgrade within the same period. *Michelle V. Remo*



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Stocks seen to rise

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO break psychological levels this week on the back of favorable reports on inflation, a controlled fiscal deficit and strong OFW remittances.

"I'm very excited about the market. It is about to break the 2,600 level, which was the previous high last May 8 this year. Last week was a healthy correction before trying to pick momentum for the break past 2,600,"

STOCKS/ B6

₱500-M export dev't fund eyed

By Doris C. Dumlao

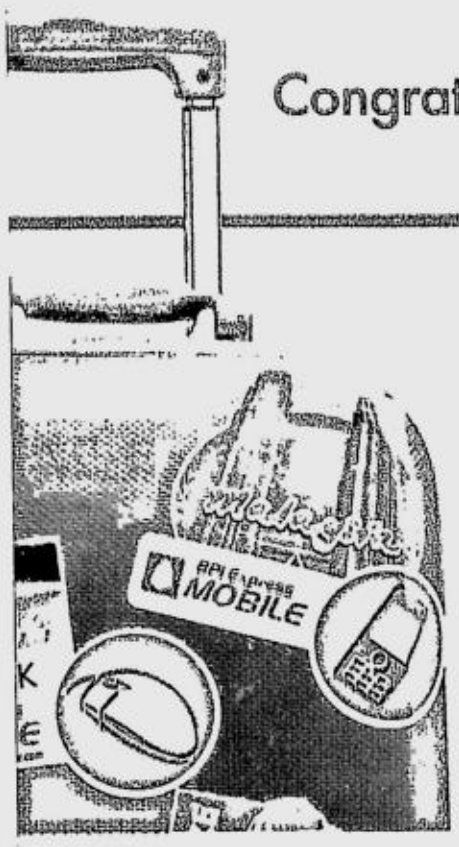
PROJECTING THAT THE PESO WILL REMAIN strong in the long haul, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said he would push for the creation of a P500-million government-funded export development fund to help boost the competitiveness of exporters.

Neri, also a member of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy-making Monetary Board, told reporters that remittances from overseas Filipino workers and earnings from the business process outsourcing sector that were "growing by leaps and bounds" would inevitably keep the peso strong against the dollar.

"Intervention in the market will be basically to manage fluctuations but if the dollars keep on coming in, necessarily we may be in for a stronger peso over the long run and the best way to counter that is to do what the Japanese did—that is to keep on upgrading and upgrading the (export) product," Neri said.

Neri said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Trade and Industry must now act on his proposal to establish a

P500-M/ B3



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More contradictions

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

LAST WEEK'S COLUMN PROVOKED SOME feedback from readers who affirmed my observations on the puzzles, contradictions and ironies in our current economic performance.

The common message was how they find it hard to identify with the seemingly good news on economic growth, given the way their businesses—and those of their other friends in business—are actually faring.

There's nothing more valuable for an academe-based economist like me than to hear first-hand accounts from people who are immersed in the real economy, whether as consumers or as producers/sellers of the goods and services we all consume.

I thank my responsive readers for that. While anecdotal, their stories are very real and practical, and can be more useful than aggregative statistics for identifying proper responses from those who chart our economy's directions.

Pervasive pessimism

Actually, the reader feedback illustrated another puzzle or contradiction that I had not yet discussed in last week's piece, which dealt with only three of seven such puzzles or contradictions that figure in my recent economic briefings.

This is the puzzle that even as the economy is growing at a respectable rate, indicators of both consumer and business confidence are down.

The BSP Quarterly Survey on Consumer Confidence yielded an index of minus 37.2 percent in the third quarter—meaning that consumers who anticipate worse times ahead (i.e. the pessimists) outnumber those who expect improvement in the economy (the optimists) by that percentage.

While this slightly improved on the second quarter figure of -38.7 percent, it reflects pervasive pessimism on the part of consumers.

Not surprisingly, poorer families are more pessimistic (-44.8 percent) than richer families (-20.6 percent), but the high margin of pessimism even among the rich speaks volumes.

Commonly cited reasons are rising prices, political crisis, higher unemployment and weak government policies. Not even the tapering inflation rate has kept people from seeing rising prices as a top concern. But then again, our inflation is still among the worst in the region; only Indonesia has a higher inflation rate than we do among our immediate neighbors.

Declining optimism

On the business side, the results show a net optimism—that's good news—but there is also bad news: There was a significant drop in that optimism in the last quarter.

From a 31.6-percent margin for the second quarter, the BSP's Business Confidence Index has dropped to 21.7 percent, or an almost 10-percentage-point drop. Sustained oil price hikes and rising labor costs were the most-cited concerns. Those who remained most optimistic were those from the services and construction industries.

In one briefing, someone called my attention to yet another apparent contradiction here.

Statistics show that construction expenditures plunged by 5.2 percent. In fact, private construction fell by a steep 10.5 percent, while growth in government construction activities slowed down dramatically from 14 percent in the first quarter to a mere 2.1 percent in the second quarter.

And yet it was the construction people who the BSP survey showed to be among the most upbeat about the economic outlook!

Pressed for an explanation, I could only speculate that perhaps, the construction people saw no other way to go but up, given the current sluggishness of their industry (but I would welcome feedback from those in the industry on this particular point).

Per capita income

Another good news shared by the government recently was how Filipinos' average income per capita (that is, per person a year) has risen to an all-time high of over $1,400.

I recall how we in the Ramos economic management team had set a target of $1,200 by 1998, which we had overshot briefly—until the Asian financial crisis pushed the peso-dollar exchange rate from P26.50 to more than P40. Naturally, that made the dollar equivalent drop back down below $1,000.

The apparent contradiction, however, is that in the face of the reported rise in per capita income, the SWS surveys showed a record hunger index (17 percent) and a rising self-rated poverty index (60 percent) in recent months.

But then again, there is no real contradiction here. Average income is just that—it is just an average, and the figure tells us nothing about how the income is really distributed.

The fact is, the richest 20 percent of Filipinos earn more than 11 times the income that the poorest 20 percent do. We are actually worse off than in 1988, when that rich-poor gap was only 8 to 1.

Exchange rate effect

Note that a major reason the dollar per capita income figure is up is a simple exchange rate effect: We now divide the peso figure by only P50; a year or so ago, we had to divide it by P56.

So even if there had been no change in average income in peso terms, the dollar figure would have gone up from $1,250 to $1,400 anyway. Meanwhile, the Thais are already at $2,800, the Malaysians at $5,000, and the Singaporeans at $27,500.

Our consolation perhaps is that the Indonesians are still lower, at $1,280. But the Vietnamese have doubled their average income in the last eight years (to $620), and those of us who have been to Cambodia lately know that even this country seems poised to outrun us in the foreseeable future. We still have a lot of homework to do. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

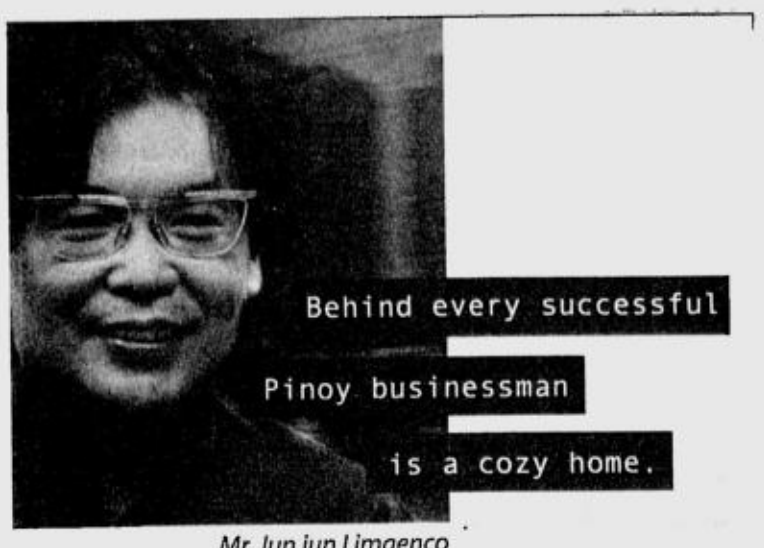
Customs ...

From page B1

port, P335 million; Port of Manila, P333 million, and Cagayan de Oro district, P122 million.

Other districts that fell short of their individual targets were: Cebu, P91 million; Subic, P74 million; Davao, P6 million; Surigao, P5.7 million; Legaspi, P800,000, and Iloilo, P300,000.

The BOC, the second-biggest revenue earner for the government after the Bureau of Internal Revenue, is officially tasked to collect P197 billion in duties and import taxes this year. The agency has also set a higher internal target of P200 billion.



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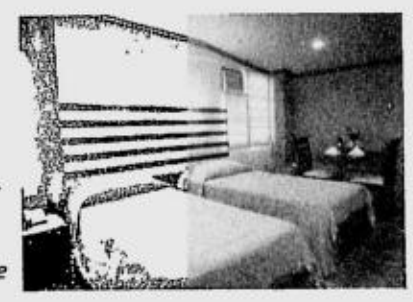
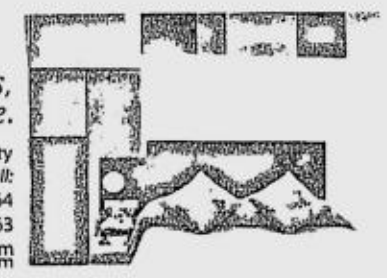

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Leviste's disappearing act

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LOREN LEGARDA'S LESSER HALF PULLED the magic trick on himself this time, disappearing on the same day that Legarda launched her P3,900-coffee-table book.

Former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste, whose sleight-of-hand acts were always a hit among party and election crowds, checked in at the Makati Medical Center Thursday for still unclear reasons.

Leviste, who appears hale and hearty despite the two decades-age difference with the 46-year-old Legarda, was still registered in the hospital until Saturday.

Legarda herself finally admitted, in the Korina Sanchez talk show a few weeks ago, that she and Leviste had been separated for about two years now—a fact that Manila's high society and media had known all along but kept among themselves.

From a domestic pillar who saw the transformation of his wife from an award-winning broadcaster to an accomplished politician, Leviste's reduced presence was noticeable in the coffee-table book.

Whereas the author-publicist Bing Carrion-Buck merited five photographs of herself, including a full-page spread, Leviste appeared in "The Story of Loren Legarda: Her Legacy and Vision" in a single postcard-size photo seated with Legarda and her parents during their younger, happier times.

The green glossy itself was a commercial success, judging from the SRO-crowd that packed the Manila Polo Club ballroom.

According to the grapevine, organizers had brought only 280 copies, as only 300 had actually been invited, but over a thousand, many bold-faced names and political VIPs, actually showed up, along with the usual crush of reporters and camera crew.

Even before launch date, at least 1,000 copies of the book had already been "committed," easily grossing P3.9 million on D-day alone.

Even then, publication and production expenses had apparently been covered as well, judging from the number of sponsors, led by the PLDT-Smart Group and International Container Terminal Services Inc., that had underwritten what could arguably be Legarda's comeback launch.

Grimm lecture

SUPREME COURT Justice Cancio Garcia could barely contain his incredulity at how the Court of Appeals, specifically Justices Eubulo Verzola (ponente), Remedios Salazar-Fernando and Edgardo Sundiam, have discarded a basic rule of evidence in the Manila Golf share case of Grimm vs. Parsons reported here on Friday.

"The CA's ruling does not commend itself for acceptance. As it were, the assailed decision started on the wrong foot and thus had to limp all along to arrive at a strained and erroneous conclusion," Garcia wrote, as the Supreme Court's Second Division voted to overturn the appellate court's decision.

The case involved the ownership of a golf share in the Manila Golf Club involving the now deceased businessmen-partners Edward

COCKTALES/ B4

P500-M . . .

From page B1

new export development fund that will help the sector upgrade product quality, design, packaging and global marketing.

"The example of Japan is that as the yen appreciated, they kept upgrading and upgrading (the export sector)," Neri said.

If the Philippine export sector could also upgrade product quality, he said exporters could charge higher dollar prices without losing market share despite the peso's sharp gains against the dollar.

Since the start of the year, the local currency has appreciated by P3.09 or nearly 6 percent against the dollar. Last Friday, the exchange rate touched 49.99 before closing at 50:$1.

"If we can convert this disadvantage into an advantage, then we can have a much stronger hold on the export market, because we won't be competing on the basis of price alone. We'll be competing based on quality, which is a better way to compete," Neri stressed.

The BSP and the DTI are willing to shell out money for an export development fund. But the BSP wanted the export sector to contribute to the fund too.

"The BSP and the DTI should talk because I don't think the exporters can set up a counterpart funding. It's not realistic to ask them," Neri said.

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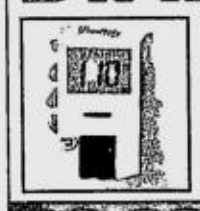

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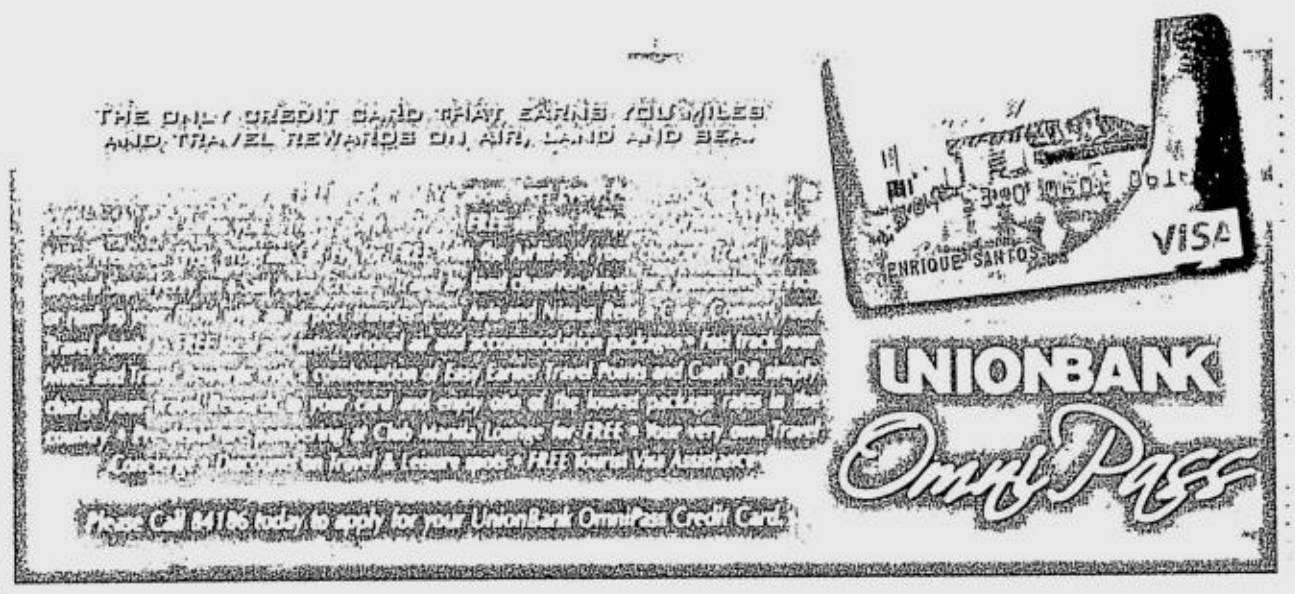

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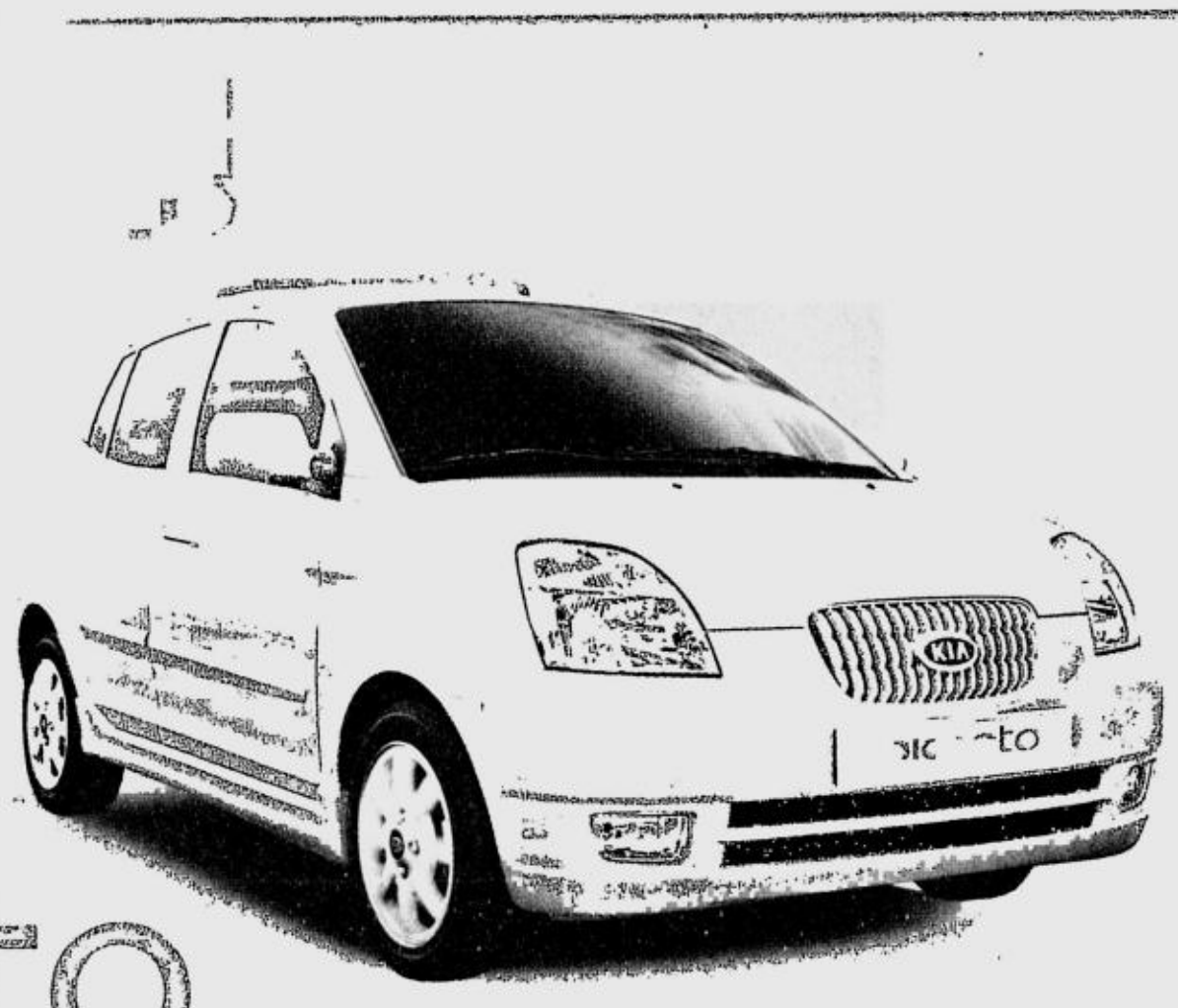

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Oil firm to open Bio-Fuels Center

By Abigail L. Ho

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM FLYING V will be opening its P10-million flagship Bio-Fuels Center at the Philippine Coconut Authority compound on the second week of November.

The Bio-Fuels Center, a partnership between Flying V and the Philcoa Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, will have pumps dispensing BioDiesel Premium, or diesel blended with 1 percent of coco methyl ester (CME).

Flying V director for special projects Paul Tanjutco said these biodiesel pumps would ensure the availability of the alternative fuel to government offices that had to comply with Memorandum Order No. 55. The order mandated all government vehicles to run on diesel with at least 1-percent CME blend.

The Bio-Fuels Center will also house a multi-purpose building that will feature year-round exhibits and regular presentations, seminars and demonstrations targeted at transport groups and the motoring public, in general.

Prior to the actual opening of the Bio-Fuels Center, coco-biodiesel seminars and vehicle emission tests will be conducted there on Oct. 20, 24 and 27, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and biodiesel manufacturer Chemrez Inc.

The United States Agency for International Development-Sustainable Energy Development Program will also be holding an exhibit on alternative fuels starting Nov. 3.

"The construction of the Flying V Bio-Fuels Center, the first in the country, reflects Flying V's pioneering and long-term commitment to support the government's alternative fuels program," Tanjutco said.

Flying V director for special projects Paul S. Tanjutco said the center would be home to Flying V's pioneering efforts in the promotion of the use of Bio-Fuels, particularly biodiesel.

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Landbank boosts capital via subordinated debt issuance

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED LAND BANK OF THE Philippines has raised $150 million in tier 2 capital through a foreign subordinated debt issuance.

The issuance fetched a coupon rate of 7.25 percent, the lowest ever obtained by a Philippine bank since the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas allowed tier 2 or supplementary capital-raising as an option to comply with stiff capital adequacy requirements.

The issuance, managed by Deutsche Bank, was the first ever subordinated debt issuance by LandBank and its first offshore borrowing since 1996.

The offering was oversubscribed, with total orders reaching $1 billion or 10 times the original target of $100 million, prompting the bank to maximize the debt issue size allowed by local regulators of $150 million.

The pricing was tightened from the indicative level of 7.5 percent at the start of the roadshows conducted in Singapore and Hong Kong.

"We are happy with the result of the issuance. We view it as the financial markets' affirmation of Landbank's financial strength," Landbank acting president Gilda Pico said in a press statement yesterday.

"It is also a confirmation of the foreign investors' improving outlook on the Philippine economy," Pico added.

With the proceeds from this issuance, Landbank's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is expected to improve to 19 percent from 14 percent.

While the bank did not find it too difficult to hurdle the mandated shift to the new international accounting standards starting 2005, it would like to prepare for the more stringent provisioning requirements under Basle 2 that will be phased in by next year.

Without this issuance, the shift to tighter capital adequacy framework under Basle 2 could trim down its CAR by 2-3 percentage points, especially with the provision raising the risk weights on real and other properties owned and acquired to 150 percent.

Landbank posted P1.65 billion in net profit in the first half of the year, up by 18 percent over a year ago, as lower interest margins were offset by higher loan volume.

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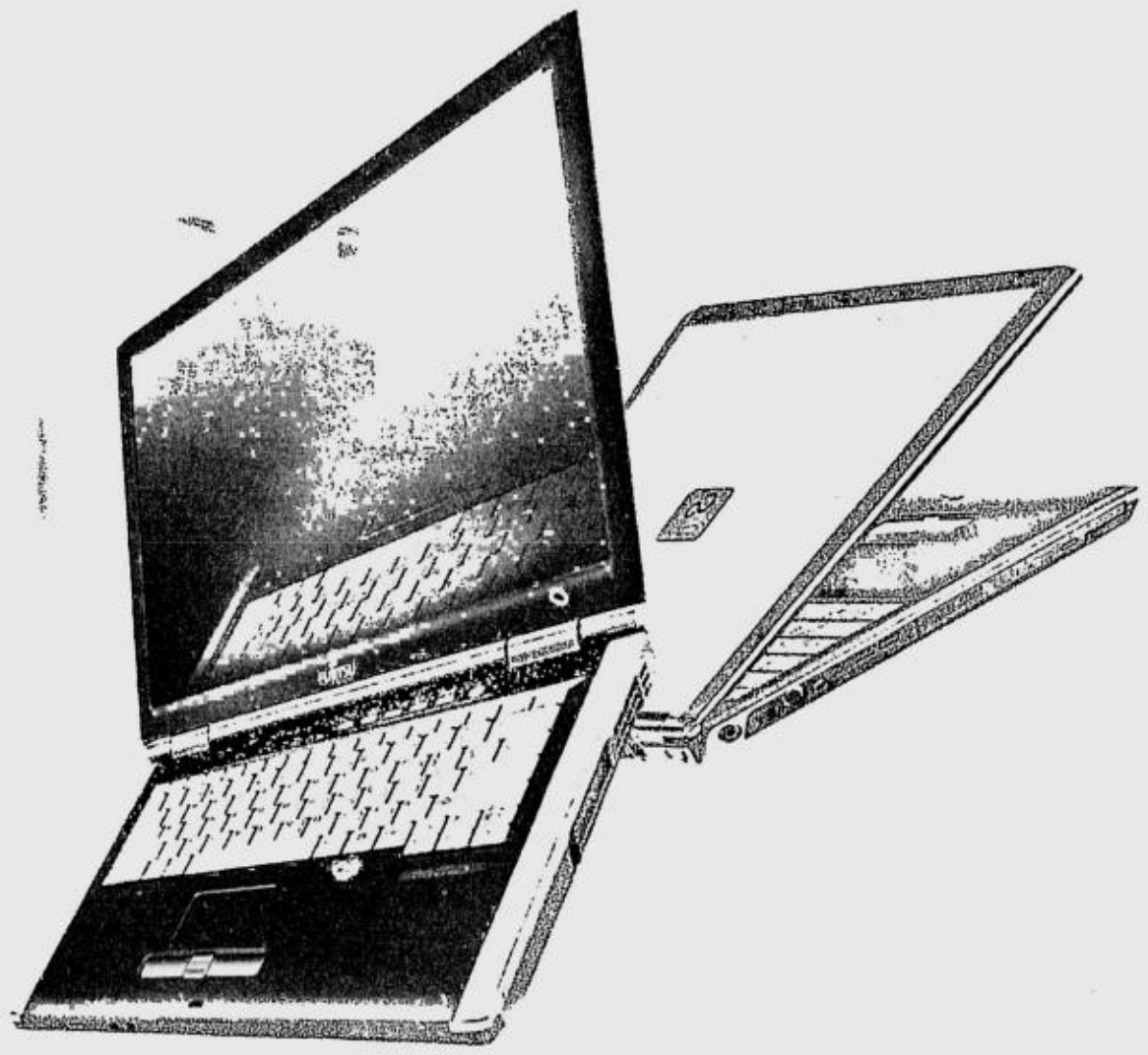

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Cocktales

From page B3

Miller Grimm and Charles Parsons.

The Grimm estate maintains that the disputed share had only been held in trust by Parsons; Parsons' sons, who had taken over the partnership with the death of the two principals, claim the disputed share is already part of the partnerships' investment assets.

Inasmuch as Grimm's name appeared as the registered owner of the share, the onus of proving otherwise would fall on the other claimants, the Supreme Court ruled.

Without so much of an explanation, however, the appellate court minimized the value of the share certificate as arguably the best evidence of ownership, Garcia said.

"Corollarily, the appellate court devalued the rule on legal presumption and faulted petitioner Estate of Grimm for not presenting evidence to prove that Grimm paid for his original acquisition of (the Manila Golf Club share)."

"Ironically, while the CA held it against the (Grimm estate) for failing to adduce proof of payment (of the golf share), it nonetheless proceeded to declare (Parsons) to be the beneficial owner of said certificate even if it, too, had not presented proof for such payment," Garcia continued.

"Surely, payment cannot be validly deduced, as the CA did, from the bare fact of such membership certificate being listed in the books of (Parsons) as partnership investment assets."

Garcia noted that Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Francisco Ibay had correctly ruled that the self-serving Parsons book entries were "not evidentiary of ownership."

"Else, anyone can lay a claim, or worse, acquire ownership over a share of stock by the simple expedience of listing, without more, the same in the partnership or corporate books," Garcia wrote.

"The sheer absurdity of the notion needs no belaboring."

Meralco's Milenyo lessons

IT took over a month for Meralco, then operating only in a much smaller Greater Manila Area, to restore power after supertyphoon Yoling devastated the country in 1972.

In 1995 in the aftermath of Rosing, the Lopez-controlled utility took nearly two weeks to reconnect fallen wires and bring back power in the now much-enlarged metropolis.

To appreciate how Meralco and the Filipinos in general have learned how to bounce back literally overnight after being struck by the annual calamities, click on www.cocktales.biz to read the full, unadulterated report on how Milenyo mauled Meralco and how linemen as far away as Pangasinan and Davao rushed to repair power lines in Makati's exclusive villages.

The report also contains snapshots of the incredible damage Milenyo had inflicted in the Meralco franchise area.

Money-go-round

• THE MANILA Golf Club is thinking of closing down the golf course for two years to complete the course's renovation, after Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. reportedly refused to allow back-entry access to trucks and construction crew.

• PHILIPPINE National Bank is crying foul over the P145-million "overpayment" ordered returned by Isabela RTC Judge Raul Babaran to a bank borrower who never included the alleged overpayment in his prayer.

The bank borrower has also the good fortune and foresight of retaining a former clerk of court of the same judge as his counsel.

Heard through the grapevine

THE QUEZON City Prosecutor's Office has filed a criminal complaint against Citibank and two bank officers for having allegedly submitted a fake quit-claim document to support the bank's position against the illegal dismissal case filed by an expatriate officer.

Former financial controller Ian Grant Fenton claimed he never signed the quit-claim document presented by Citibank in the illegal dismissal case Fenton had filed against the US bank before the National Labor Relations Commission.

(Email: cocktales@cocktales.biz)

Gov't eyes $200-M ADB loan for capital market development

To fund IC, SEC, PDIC plans

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING a $200-million official development assistance from the Asian Development Bank to support a program to develop the country's sluggish capital market.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan told reporters the ODA would be used to strengthen the regulatory capacity of the Insurance Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC).

The IC regulates the insurance industry while the SEC oversees the pre-need sector and the country's equities market. PDIC provides liquidity support to the banking sector.

Tan said the IC needed the ADB loan for its rationalization program, which was hoped to improve the agency's ability to help in the management of risks of the insurance industry.

The ODA will also be used to partly fund the agency's ongoing computerization program.

Called the Financial Assistance Intermediation Loan, the ODA is expected to be approved soon by the ADB. It would carry an annual interest equivalent to Libor (London Interbank Overnight Rate) plus 40 basis points, the minimum imposed by the ADB on countries that are considered good borrowers.

Moves to strengthen the regulatory functions of agencies overseeing the capital market come with initiatives to push for reforms in the sector.

The Capital Market Development Council (CMDC), composed of industry players, had submitted to the DOF a program to boost activity in the market. The blueprint, while already approved in principle by the DOF, needs to be formally approved before it could be published and adopted.

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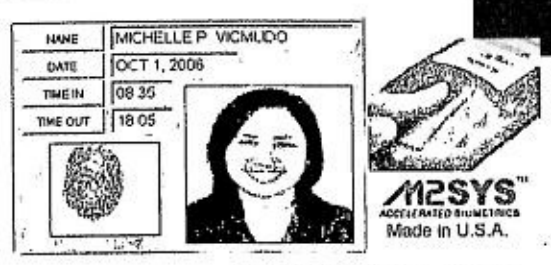

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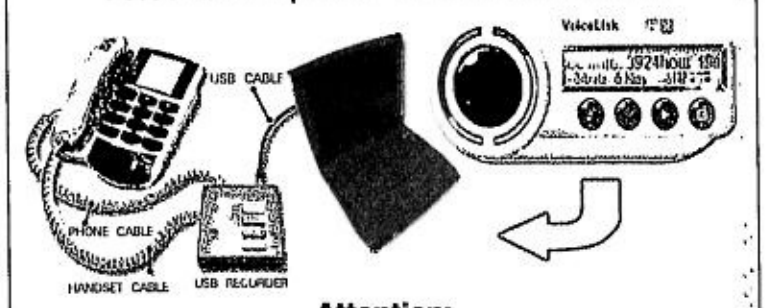

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The RSBS tragedy

THE RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION Benefits System (RSBS), the military pension fund scheme, will close down (the official word is "deactivate") by the end of this year. After running on an empty tank for years, RSBS has finally sputtered to a halt. It is bankrupt.

Every year before 1974, the Armed Forces computed the pension due military retirees and tacked the amount onto the budget for approval by Congress. It was a pay-as-you-go scheme.

In 1974, Marcos set up RSBS. He decreed that pensions would be funded by deductions from salary of military personnel. As seed money, P200 million was appropriated.

At the start, deductions were at 4 percent of salary. Later the deductions were raised to 5 percent. It looked like these percentages were decided on arbitrarily. There seemed to have been no actuarial basis.

The pay-as-you-go scheme did not cost the soldier anything. In effect, the AFP was putting money away for the soldier for future delivery to him at retirement. On the other hand, the Marcos plan cost the poorly paid soldier 5 percent of his salary. But martial law was still in effect and nobody dared squawk.

A major characteristic of a funded pension plan, such as the RSBS, is that management finds itself awash with huge sums of money, called the reserves, that has to be invested. At the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), investing the reserves is spelled out in great detail in their respective charters.

The Marcos decree had only one, single rule: Investments need only the joint approval of the chief of staff and the secretary of defense. There were absolutely no details as to the limits and classes of investments RSBS could channel its funds into.

In 1998, Orly Mercado, President Estrada's excellent Secretary of Defense, blew the lid off the whole sordid mess.

Mercado found RSBS illiquid (another euphemism for bankrupt). This was the result of the fact that more than 70 percent of its total investments were in severely over-priced real estate supposedly to be developed into residential and industrial subdivisions, and golf courses. (In the private sector, real estate investments of insurance companies account for less than 10 percent of total investments.)

To raise the money for the real estate deals, RSBS borrowed from the banks. The loans were amortized by dipping into the soldiers' contributions. This violated the basic principle that pension funds are in the business to lend, not to borrow.

Mercado was particularly sore at the retired generals running RSBS who had supposedly paid P4 million in revolutionary taxes to the NPA in connection with the purchase of some land in Bulacan. Talk about cavorting with the enemy.

The investments were not the result of bad judgement on the part of the retired generals who were running RSBS. It was grand larceny on a scale seldom seen in Philippine crime history.

Once would think that the retired generals would have taken good care of the funds contributed by our poorly paid rank and file. Instead, they ravaged the funds to enrich themselves.

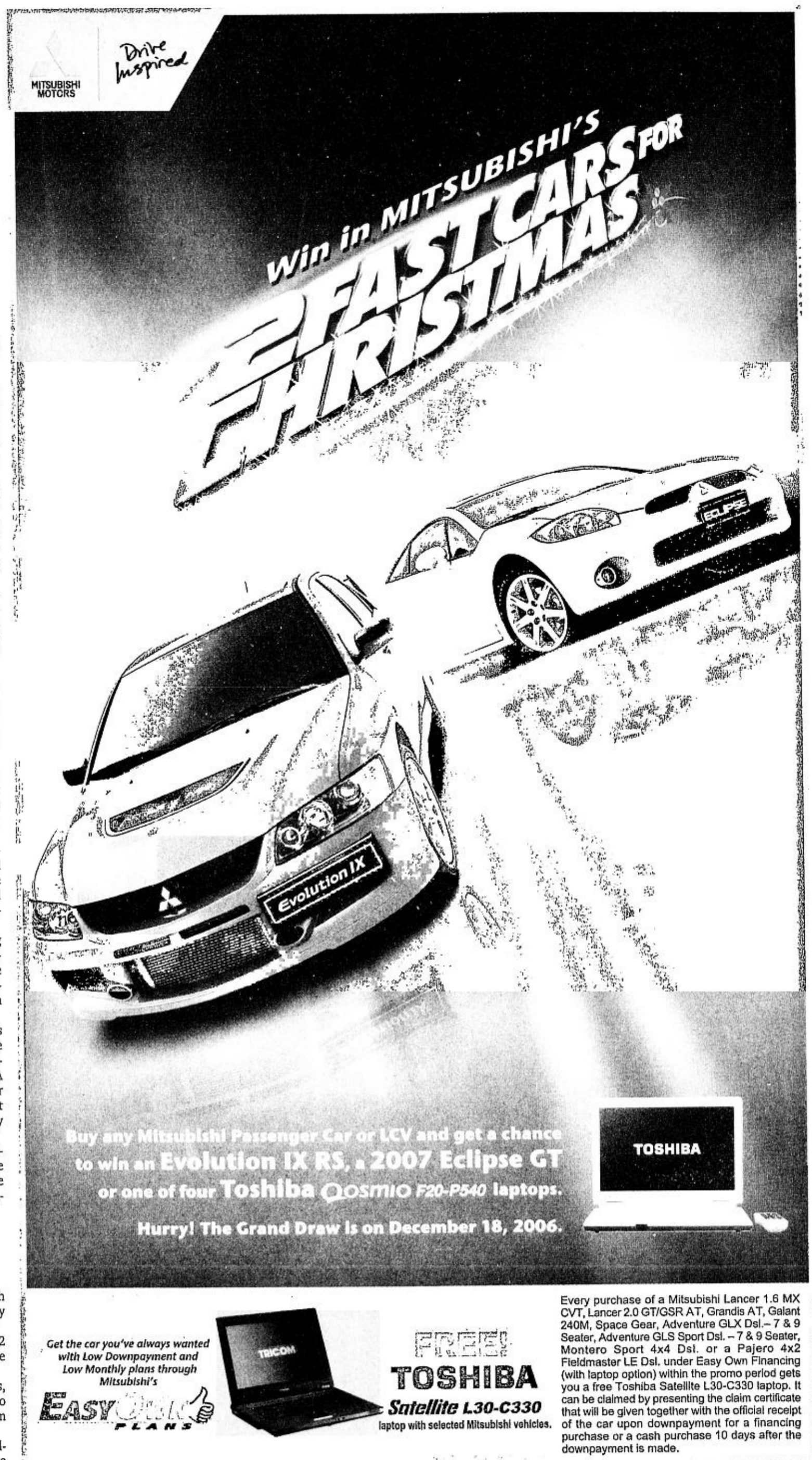
Now, that RSBS will be deactivated by the end of the year, what happens to all the contributions (estimated P500 million yearly) of the active military personnel?

How are the cases filed in connection with all those shady real estate deals coming along? Are we seeing again proof of the old saying that we have the best justice system that money can buy?

A new pension system is being cooked up. I suggest Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz should hire some topnotch actuaries who are in private practice. I can recommend a couple if Cruz wants me to.

What should worry all of us is the adverse effect on the morale of our troops. Will they go on pursuing the Abu Sayyaf and the NPA vigorously, knowing that their contributions to the retirement fund are being sucked away by crooked retired generals?

Maybe these crooked retired generals should be lined up against the wall in front of a firing squad made up of privates. That should do wonders to the morale of our troops.



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Banks' NPL ratio up

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD LOANS-TO-TOTAL loans ratio of Philippine commercial banks inched up to 7.2 percent as of end-August from the previous month's 7.17 percent as the expansion of nonperforming loans outpaced the rise in the industry's total loan portfolio, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The banking system's NPL ratio has dropped to post-Asian crisis lows this year after peaking at 18.81 percent in October 2001. The decline was aided by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) law which allowed banks to unload about P95 billion in bad assets.

Based on a BSP report, the sector's NPLs expanded by 0.78 percent in August versus a month ago, while loan portfolio grew by only 0.23 percent.

The August NPL ratio stood 2.2 percentage points better than the 9.4 percent a year ago.

Excluding inter-bank loans, the sector's NPL ratio also climbed to 8.69 percent from 8.54 percent a month ago.

Restructured loans as of end-August fell to 5.02 percent as ratio of total loans from 5.07 percent at end-July, prompted by a 0.84 percent cutback in gross restructured loans to P96.71 billion.

The ratio of nonperforming restructured loans to total restructured loans moved up to 47.18 percent or 1.17 percentage points higher than month-ago level.

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METROBANK

SUBASTA BONANZA

VISAYAS/MINDANAO PROPERTIES

AS LOW AS 8% INTEREST • LOW DOWNPAYMENT • AS LONG AS 10 YEARS TO PAY

2:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. (REGISTRATION STARTS AT 2:00 P.M. / AUCTION PROPER STARTS AT 3:00 P.M.)

Auction on October 23, 2006, (Monday) DYNASTY HOTEL, Tiano-Hayes St., CAGAYAN DE ORO (near San Agustin Cathedral)

VISAYAS

AKLAN
Text 09206186282

MB_AKL051 RSDL LOT
L.A. 943 sqm.
Brgy. Andagao, KALIBO
Min. Bid Price: P 1,280,000

MB_AKL052 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 46 sqm.
OLIVE PLAINS SUBD., Numancia
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

ANTIQUE
Text 09206186282

MB_ATQ053 LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 943 sqm. F.A.
Sitio Punda, Brgy. Dalipe,
SAN JOSE
Min. Bid Price: P 390,000

BACOLOD
Text 09214488869

MB_BAC054 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 3,315 sqm. F.A. 384 sqm.
Lot 831, BRGY. SUM-AG
Min. Bid Price: P 3,800,000

MB_BAC055 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 250 sqm. F.A. 135 sqm.
ALUNAN AVE., Brgy. 35
Min. Bid Price: P 480,000

MB_BAC056 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 252 sqm. F.A. 155 sqm.
Emerald Street
SAN LUIS VILL., Brgy. Sum-ag
Min. Bid Price: P 680,000

CAPIZ
Text 09206186282

MB_CPZ057 RSDL/COMML LOT
W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 1,621 sqm.
McKinley St., ROXAS CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 6,970,300

CEBU
Text 09266256957

MB_CBU058 RSDL LOT
L.A. 613 sqm.
ALTA VISTA SUBD., Pardo
Min. Bid Price: P 2,400,000

MB_CBU059 RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,017 sqm.
Brgy. Canjulao, LAPU-LAPU CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,260,000

ILOILO
Text 09206186282

MB_ILO060 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 357 sqm. F.A. 280 sqm.
Gumban St., Brgy. Purok 1, PAVIA
Min. Bid Price: P 600,000

MB_ILO062 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,020 sqm. F.A. 1,155 sqm.
CD HEIGHTS SUBD., Mandurriao
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

LEYTE
Text 09266256957

MB_LYT063 LOT W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 1,300 sqm. F.A.
Brgy. San Jose, TACLOBAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

MB_LYT064 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 515 sqm. F.A. 168 sqm.
Brgy. Calbaan, TACLOBAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 580,000

MB_LYT065 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,092 sqm. F.A. 192 sqm.
Brgy. San Jose, TACLOBAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 650,000

MB_LYT066 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,852 sqm.
Diversion Rd., Brgy. Caibaan
TACLOBAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,850,000

MB_LYT067 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 585 sqm. F.A. 180 sqm.
Taguile St., V&G SUBD.
Brgy. Caibaan, Tacloban City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,350,000

MB_LYT068 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A. 262 sqm.
ALANDE SUBD, Brgy. 78
Marasbaras, Tacloban City
Min. Bid Price: P 330,000

MB_LYT069 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 200 sqm. F.A. 120 sqm.
M. Moraza Street
Brgy. Grefono Loreto Sr.,BAYBAY
Min. Bid Price: P 600,000

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Text 09214488869

MB_NO070 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 645 sqm. F.A. 169 sqm.
Brgy. Recreo, PONTEVEDRA
Min. Bid Price: P 280,000

MB_NO071 2-STRY OFC BLDG.
Poblacion, SAN CARLOS CITY

LOT AREA	FLR. AREA	Min. Bid Price
658 sqm.		P500,000
1,685 sqm.	1,026 sqm.	5,500,000
1,820 sqm.	717 sqm.	8,000,000

SAMAR
Text 09266256957

MB_SMR072 WRHSE BLDG.
L.A. 1,536 sqm. F.A. 540 sqm.
Baltimore St., JPR SUBD.
Poblacion, Calbayog City
Min. Bid Price: P 3,980,000

MB_SMR073 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,535 sqm.
Brgy. Matobato, CALBAYOG CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

MINDANAO

AGUSAN DEL SUR
Text 09194032583

MB_ADS074 RSDL LOT
L.A. 633 sqm.
Sanchez & Layna St., Poblacion
SAN FRANCISCO
Min. Bid Price: P 280,000

MB_ADS075 RSDL LOT
L.A. 862 sqm.
Brgy. Pisaan, SAN FRANCISCO
Min. Bid Price: P 140,000

MB_ADS076 RSDL LOT
L.A. 720 sqm.
Brgy. Pisaan, SAN FRANCISCO
Min. Bid Price: P 115,000

MB_ADS077 RSDL LOT
L.A. 6,291 sqm. F.A. 2,353 sqm.
May-as St., BRGY. 1.
SAN FRANCISCO
Min. Bid Price: P 300,000

MB_ADS078 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 601 sqm. F.A.
Tumulak St., Brgy. 2,
SAN FRANCISCO
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

BUKIDNON
Text 09217388885

MB_BKN079 COMML BLDG.
L.A. 520 sqm. F.A. 565 sqm.
Brgy. Salawagan, QUEZON
Min. Bid Price: P 850,000

MB_BKN080 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,095 sqm.
Brgy. Linabo, MALAYBALAY CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

MB_BKN081 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,277 sqm.
Brgy. Managok MALAYBALAY CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 160,000

MB_BKN082 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,099 sqm.
Villa Hermosa Road.,
VALENCIA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 780,000

MB_BKN083 RSDL LOT
L.A. 551 sqm.
Brgy. Hagkol, VALENCIA CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 250,000

BUTUAN
Text 09194032583

MB_BTN084 6-STRY HOTEL
L.A. 454 sqm. F.A. 2,070 sqm.
MONTILLA BLVD., Butuan City
Min. Bid Price: P 18,800,000

MB_BTN085 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 1,172 sqm.
Villanueva St., BRGY. SAN IGNACIO
Min. Bid Price: P 850,000

MB_BTN086 2-STRY RSDL/COMML BLDG
L.A. 900 sqm. F.A. 283 sqm.
Lot 372, ST. JOSEPH SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,280,000

MB_BTN087 RSDL LOT
L.A. 791 sqm.
Villa Kananga and Rosal Road
ST. JOSEPH SUBD., Brgy. Villa Kananga
Min. Bid Price: P 888,000

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Text 09217388885

MB_CDO088 COMML LOT
L.A. 2,004 sqm.
ARCH. HAYES ST., 22nd St. (ext.)
Min. Bid Price: P 9,800,000

MB_CDO089 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 730 sqm. F.A. 386 sqm.
CORRALES AVE., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P 2,580,000

MB_CDO090 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 390 sqm. F.A. 386 sqm.
VELEZ SUBD., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P 1,980,000

MB_CDO090 COMMLLOT
L.A. 369 sqm.
Mabini St., Brgy 14, POBLACION
Min. Bid Price: P 4,500,000

MB_CDO091 COMML BLDG.
L.A. 244 sqm. F.A. 341 sqm.
North Abellanosa St., POBLACION
Min. Bid Price: P 1,880,000

MB_CDO092 RSDL/COMML BLDG
L.A. 5,777 sqm. F.A. 1,542 sqm.
CORRALES EXT., Brgy. 21,
Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P 28,000,000

MB_CDO093 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 1,500 sqm. F.A. 677 sqm.
APOVEL SUBD., Brgy. Bulua
Min. Bid Price: P 4,280,000

MB_CDO094 RSDL LOT
L.A. 483 sqm.
APOVEL SUBD., Bgry. Bulua
Min. Bid Price: P 724,500

MB_CDO095 RSDL/INDSL LOT
L.A. 250 sqm.
APOVEL SUBD., Brgy. Bulua
Min. Bid Price: P 375,000

MB_CDO096 RSDL LOT
L.A. 444 sqm.
GOLDEN VILL., Brgy. Carmen
Min. Bid Price: P 750,000

MB_CDO097 VARIOUS RSDL LOT
L.A. 10,021 sqm.
PROMISELAND SUBD., Iponan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,750,000

MB_CDO098 RSDL/OFC BLDG.
L.A. 750 sqm. F.A. 314 sqm.
Ramoncito Chavez St.
APOVEL SUBD., Brgy. Bulua
Min. Bid Price: P 1,680,000

MB_CDO099 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 557 sqm. F.A. 95 sqm.
GALARPE COMPD., Brgy. Kauswagan
Min. Bid Price: P 450,000

MB_CDO100 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm. F.A. 215 sqm.
CORONA DRIVE, Tibasak Road
Brgy. Macasandig
Min. Bid Price: P 1,250,000

MB_CDO101 RSDL/COMML BLDG
L.A. 14,534 sqm. F.A. 4,035 sqm
NATIONAL HIGHWAY,
Brgy. Kauswagan
SERGIO OSMEÑA ST., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P 75,000,000

MB_CDO102 RSDL LOT
L.A. 947 sqm. F.A. 279 sqm.
Belen Jongko cor. Filipinas Jongko Sts
APOVEL SUBD., Brgy. Bulua
Min. Bid Price: P 1,350,000

MB_CDO103 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 750 sqm. F.A. 336 sqm.
Blas Valez St., APOVEL SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,780,000

MB_CDO104 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 250 sqm. F.A. 389 sqm.
Blas Valez St., APOVEL SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,380,000

MB_CDO105 HOUSE & LOT
L.A.1,095 sqm. F.A.
Villarin St., Patag H-way
BRGY. CARMEN
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

MB_CDO106 RSDL LOT
L.A. 238 sqm.
Golden cor. Diamond Aves
BUENAVISTA VILLAGE,
Brgy. Patag
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

MB_CDO107 COMML LOT
L.A. 267.50 sqm.
Corrales Ave. Ext, MACABALAN
Min. Bid Price: P 1,580,000

MB_CDO108 RSDL LOT
L.A. 265 sqm.
BRGY. CONSOLATION
Min. Bid Price: P 180,000

MB_CDO109 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,537 sqm.
Indahag Rd., Sitio Bolonsori
BRGY. CAMAMAN-AN
Min. Bid Price: P 550,000

MB_CDO110 RSDL LOT
L.A. 500 sqm. F.A. 117.50 sqm.
SUBERE'S COMPD. Carmen
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

MB_CDO111 RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
STA. CECILIA SUBD., Brgy. Cusa
Min. Bid Price: P 600,000

MB-CDO112 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 11,414 sqm.
Lumbia Provl. BRGY. LUMBIA
Min. Bid Price: P 6,888,000

MB_CDO113 RSDL LOT
L.A. 480 sqm.
Ruby St. GOLDEN VILL.
Brgy. Carmen
Min. Bid Price: P 960,000

MB_CDO114 RSDL/AGRI LOT
L.A. 14,118 sqm.
Lot 19989, TABLON
Min. Bid Price: P 1,980,000

MB_CDO115 RSDL LOT
L.A. 18,180 sqm.
BRGY. MACASANDIG
Min. Bid Price: P 580,000

MB_CDO116 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,829 sqm. F.A. 496 sqm.
Lot 5-A and Lot 4,
BRGY. CUGMAN
Min. Bid Price: P 3,800,000

MB_CDO120 HSE & LOT w/ ATTIC
L.A. 405 sqm. F.A. 288 sqm.
P. N. ROA SUBD., Brgy. Canitoan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,450,000

MB_CDO121 RSDL/COMML BLDG
L.A. 3,710 sqm. F.A. 2,166 sqm.
Nat'l H-way, BRGY. CUGMAN
Min. Bid Price: P 15,800,000

ILIGAN CITY
Text 09194032583

MB_ILC117 RSDL LOT
L.A. 10,992 sqm.
BRGY. TIPANOY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,880,000

MB_ILC118 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 922 sqm. F.A.
ISABEL VILL., Brgy. Pala-o
Min. Bid Price: P 1,750,000

MB_ILC119 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 230 sqm. F.A. 128 sqm.
BRGY. TIPANOY
Min.. Bid Price: P 250,000

MB_ILC122 4-STRY. COMML BLDG
L.A. 500 sqm. F.A. 1,666 sqm.
Laya St., BRGY. PALA-O
Min. Bid Price: P 7,800,000

MISAMIS ORIENTAL
Text 09217388885

MB_MSO123 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 169 sqm.
SAN AGUSTIN VILL.
Brgy. Casinglot, Tagoloan
Min. Bid Pice: P 600,000

MB_MSO124 2 STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 1,600 sqm. F.A.
SABIO COMPD., Tagoloan
Min. Bid Price: P 480,000

MB_MSO125 RSDL/AGRI LOT
L.A. 11,459 sqm.
Brgy. Taboc, OPOL
Min. Bid Price: P 5,800,000

OZAMIS CITY
Text 09194032583

MB_OZS127 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm. F.A. 48 sqm.
STO. NIÑO VILL., Brgy.Aguada
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

Auction on October 25, 2006, (Wednesday) Penthouse Metrobank Davao Center, Ramon Magsaysay Avenue, DAVAO CITY

DAVAO CITY
Text 09209703112 or
Call (082) 3031158

MB_DVS005 RSDL LOT
L.A. 175 sqm. (2 lots avail)
CULUSA SUBD.,
Brgy. Lizada, Toril
Min. Bid Price: P 60,000

MB_DVS006 RSDL LOT
L.A. 175 sqm.
CULUSA SUBD.,
Brgy. Lizada, Toril
Min. Bid Price: P 98,000

MB_DVS007 RSDL LOT
L.A. 500 sqm.
Brgy. Bago OSHIRO
Min. Bid Price: P 40,000

MB_DVS008 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,423 sqm. F.A. 168 sqm.
Carpio Subd. Road
CARPIO SUBD., Brgy. Buhangin
Min. Bid Price: P 2,200,000

MB_DVS009 RSDL LOT
L.A. 36,766 sqm.
Brgy. Tacunan, MINTAL
Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000

MB_DVS010 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,103 sqm.
Quirino St., Poblacion, DIGOS
Min. Bid Price: P 300,000

MB_DVS011 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,184 sqm.
Brgy. San Jose, DIGOS
Min. Bid Price: P 250,000

MB_DVS012 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 272 sqm. F.A. 71 sqm.
Discuatan Rd. cor. Alley
ILOCANO VILL., Toril
Min. Bid Price: P 300,000

MB_DVS013 RSDL/INDSL LOT
L.A. 10,000 sqm.
Brgy. Sinawilan, DIGOS
Min. Bid Price: P 980.000

MB_DVS014 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 2,434 sqm. F.A. 285 sqm.
ST. JUDE VILLAGE,
Brgy. Daliao, TORIL
Min. Bid Price: P 2,300,000

MB_DVS015 COMML LOT
L.A. 721 sqm.
F. Iñigo St., POBLACION
Min. Bid Price: P 9,800,000

MB_DVS016 2-STRY COMML BUILDING
L.A. 8,582 sqm. F.A. 2,829 sqm.
BRC VILL., Brgy. Catalunan Pequeño
Min. Bid Price: P 8,880,000

DAVAO DEL NORTE
Text 09209703112 or
Call (082) 3031158

MB_DVN001 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,752 sqm.
ESTIPONA HOMES, Sto. Tomas
Min. Bid Price: P 288,090

MB_DVN003 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 400 sqm. F.A. 160 sqm.
Brgy. Anislagan, MACO
Min. Bid Price: P 680,000

GEN. SANTOS CITY
Text 09267666746

MB_GSC021 RSDL LOT
L.A. 619 sqm.
P. ACHARON BLVD.,
Dadiangas Heights
Min. Bid Price: P 2,380,000

MB_GSC022 RSDL LOT
L.A. 487 sqm.
Sergio Osmeña Street
BRGY. DADIANGAS East
Min. Bid Price: P 980,000

MB_GSC023 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 457 sqm. F.A.
Kadulasan St., POBLACION
Min. Bid Price: P 1,280,000

MB-GSC024 RSDL LOT
L.A. 324 sqm.
ABC COMPD Brgy. Apopong
Min. Bid Price: P 50,000

MB_GSC025 RSDL LOT
L.A. 562 sqm.
SALANGSANG SUBD.,
Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price: P 200,000

MB_GSC026 RSDL LOT
L.A. 307 sqm. (2 lots available)
CITY HEIGHTS
Min. Bid Price: P 650,000

MB_GSC027 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 247 sqm. F.A.
LANSANG SUBD.
Brgy. Apupong
Min. Bid Price: P 888,000

MB_GSC028 RSDL LOT
Brgy. TAMBLER

LOT AREA	Min. Bid Price
269 sqm. (2 lots avail.)	P 50,000
1,052 sqm.	P 263,000
1,685 sqm.	P 420,000
2,400 sqm.	P 600,000

MB_GSC029 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 495 sqm. F.A.
Sampagulta cor. Gumamela St.
Purok Bagong Silang,
BRGY. LABANGAL
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

MB_GSC030 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,902 sqm.
CELCARY SUBD., Brgy. Bula
Min. Bid Price: P 4,426,500

MB_GSC031 RSDL LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 1,000 sqm.
BRGY. TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price: P 250,000

MB_GSC033 RSDL LOT
L.A. 940 sqm.
San Miguel St., LLIDO COMPD.
Brgy. Lagao
Min. Bid Price: P 2,880,000

MB_GSC034 RSDL LOT
L.A. 497 sqm.
Nuñez St.,VILLEGAS SUBD.
Purok Malakas
Min. Bid Price: P 180,000

MB_GSC035 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,081 sqm.
Purok Malakas & MANANSALA SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

MB_GSC036 RSDL LOT
L.A. 11,247 sqm.
Nuñez cor. Perez Sts.
BRGY. SAN ISIDRO
Min. Bid Price: P 5,000,000

MB_GSC037 RSDL LOT
L.A. 180 sqm. (8 lots available)
TOLEDO SUBD., Brgy. Lagao
Min. Bid Price: P 144,000

MB_GSC129 RSDL LOT
L.A. 500 sqm.
PARADISE SUBD.,
Brgy. City Heights
Min. Bid Price: P 600,000

MB_GSC038 RSDL LOT
L.A. 498 sqm.
PARADISE SUBD.,
Brgy. City Heights
Min. Bid Price: P 597,600

MB_GSC040 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 593 sqm. F.A 248 sqm.
J.P. Laurel St., Poblacion,
SARALLAH
Min. Bid Price: P 1,580,000

NORTH COTABATO
Text 09157470332

MB_COT017 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 515 sqm. F.A. 133 sqm.
National Highway
Brgy. Sadaan, MIDSAYAP
Min. Bid Price: P 380,000

MB_COT018 RSDL LOT
L.A. 548 sqm.
Poblacion, MIDSAYAP
Min. Bid Price: P 1,600,000

MB_COT019 COMML LOT
L.A. 1,565 sqm.
Singayo St., Poblacion,
LIBUNGAN
Min. Bid Price: P 650,000

MB_COT020 COMML LOT
L.A. 274.50 sqm.
Poblacion, MIDSAYAP
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

SULTAN KUDARAT
Text 09157470332

MB_SK041 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,785 sqm.
Poblacion, TACURONG CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 9,800,000

MB-SK042 RSDL LOT
L.A. 450 sqm.
VALDEZ SUBD., Tacurong City
Min. Bid Price: P 450,000

MB_SK043 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 656 sqm. F.A. 387 sqm.
Brgy. New Isabela,
TACURONG CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 980,000

MB-SK044 WRHSE w/ RICEMILL
L.A. 55,324 sqm. F.A. 1,872 sqm.
Barrio San Emmanuel,
TACURONG CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 22,000,000

MB_SK045 COMML LOT
L.A. 700 sqm.
Mabini St., Poblacion,
TACURONG CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 4,000,000

ZAMBOANGA
TEXT 09196835710 or
CALL (062) 990-1742

MB_ZAM032 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 350 sqm.
Napolan Road,
BALANGASAN DISTRICT
Min. Bid Price: P 150,000

MB_ZAM046 AGRI LOT
L.A. 1,026 sqm. (swamp land)
Brgy. Muricay, PAGADIAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 10,000

MB_ZAM047 HOUSE & LOT
L.A.500 sqm. F.A. 284 sqm.
Dipolog-Polanco, BRGY. TURNO
Min. Bid Price: P 880,000

MB_ZAM048 RSDL LOT
L.A. 929 sqm.
Brgy. Buenavista,
PAGADIAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 70,000

MB_ZAM049 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,200 sqm. F.A. 714 sqm.
PAJARES SUBD., Brgy. Tuburan
Pagadian City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,888,000

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For more details, call **THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.**
TELEPHONE NOS.: (02) 5349536 / (02) 5346954; Gen. Santos Office: (083) 5523320 CELLPHONE NO.: 09283771111

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 13. 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS			
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40.5	40.5	39.5	40	1,520,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	56.5	56.5	4,341,700
China Banking Corp.	640	645	640	645	13,850
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	3,230,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	68	68	65	65	322,400
Philippine National Bank	33	34	33	34	17,000
Phil. Savings Bank	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	3,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Security Bank Corp.	54	54.5	54	54.5	25,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	46	46	46	46	100,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.35	4.45	1,784,000
First Abacus Financial	0.4	0.54	0.4	0.51	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1575	1575	1575	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	307,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1990	1990	1965	1965	320
Ivantage Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	3,259,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Gen Corp.	50.5	51	50.5	51	27,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	52	52	51	51	460,700
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26	24.5	26	527,000
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	998,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	3,315,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.05	6,307,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	310,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	40,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37.5	38.5	37.5	38.5	1,201,100
Rfm Corp.	0.91	1.04	0.91	1	3,690,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	73,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.29	0.36	0.29	0.36	3,880,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	66	65	66	93,900
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	76.5	74.5	76.5	216,800
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	18.75	19	1,187,100
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	32,550,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.18	2.36	2.18	2.32	4,114,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.7	1.74	200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	4,987,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.78	1.92	1.78	1.92	348,000
		CHEMICALS			
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.6	4.65	700,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Global Equities Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.65	0.67	104,830,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	2,120,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	8,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.008	31,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.009	0.008	0.009	18,000,000
Ayala Corp.	487.5	492.5	487.5	487.5	108,630
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	470,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	593,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	3,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	726,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.23	0.24	3,970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	62,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	1,140,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.4	3.4	3.25	3.25	36,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	74,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.42	1.42	10,014,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.4	2,510,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.8	1,569,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.36	1.46	1.36	1.46	1,019,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	1,154,000
Keppel Holdings	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,150,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.8	20,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.54	1.56	2,836,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	1,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	21,040,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	260	255	260	421,950
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.34	1.48	1.34	1.48	616,000
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	2,480,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	80,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	2,366,400
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	100,000
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	27,640,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.24	883,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	220,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	88,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.56	40,940,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	1,190,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	11,259,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	3,190,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.74	0.82	0.74	0.78	13,120,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.96	2	1.94	1.98	38,316,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	523,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.27	0.29	290,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	13	13	6,797,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	5,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	6,895,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	2,961,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	450,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
		MEDIA			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	14,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	110,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Information Capital Tech.	7.1	7.1	6.4	6.6	120,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.5	1.54	1.46	1.54	29,082,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1105	1110	1100	-1105	132,240
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	4,062,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2200	2210	2200	2200	236,590
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.12	2	2	2,179,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	4,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	4,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.34	605,000
Philweb Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.031	0.032	288,600,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	19,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	20	19.5	19.5	269,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE			
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2	2	2	462,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	680,000
		EDUCATION			
Far Eastern University	830	830	830	830	520
Ipeople Inc	3	3	2.8	2.95	787,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.96	1,531,000
Paxys Inc.	12	12	12	12	294,800
		MINING			
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.4	4,452,000
'Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.5	1,222,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	61,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	765,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	11,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	13,550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	200,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	117,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	116,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.65	8,433,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.5	19.5	18.5	19	46,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	1,230,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	270,000
		OIL			
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,070,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	1	0.97	1	770,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	11	11	11	11	2,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.4	124,000

CURRENCIES

October 13, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.796115	1.000000	50.0040
Japan	Yen	0.006671	0.008379	0.4190
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480455	1.859600	92.9874
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102188	0.128358	6.4184
Switzerland	Franc	0.627702	0.788457	39.4260
Canada	Dollar	0.702165	0.881990	44.1030
Singapore	Dollar	0.503233	0.632111	31.6081
Australia	Dollar	0.597639	0.750694	37.5377
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.111879	2.652731	132.6472
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212280	0.266645	13.3333
Brunei	Dollar	0.501648	0.630120	31.5085
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021247	0.026688	1.3345
UAE	Dirham	0.216860	0.272398	13.6210
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.256100	62.8100
Argentina	Peso	0.256398	0.322061	16.1043
Brazil	Real	0.370459	0.465333	23.2685
Denmark	Kroner	0.134153	0.168509	8.4261
India	Rupee	0.017466	0.021939	1.0970
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215603	0.270819	13.5420
Mexico	New Peso	0.073088	0.091806	4.5907
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526148	0.660895	33.0474
South Africa	Rand	0.104835	0.131683	6.5847
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.001044	0.0522
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023957	0.030093	1.5048

Stocks seen ...

From page B1

said Allan Yu, head of investment management at Metrobank.

He said the market has also benefited from a slew of good economic news.

Overseas Filipino workers' remittances sustained the $1-billion level for the fourth consecutive month in August at $1.09 billion, bringing the January-August total to $8.1 billion, up 15.3 percent from the same period last year.

Investor confidence is also being bolstered by the announcement of the 5.5-percent year-on-year rise in GDP during the second quarter, the further slowdown in the inflation rate to 6.3 percent in August, the P14.3-billion budget surplus in August (the fourth monthly surplus posted this year), the maintenance of key policy rates by the US Federal Reserve and the BSP, the continued strengthening of the peso and easing oil prices. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Firms urge BOI to grant them perks

Pioneer status entitles them to incentives, proponents say

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A NUMBER OF investors have asked the Board of Investments to reconsider its decision not to grant them incentives, insisting that they are entitled to perks.

Sources at the BOI told the Inquirer that these firms include Lapanday Packaging, Philippine Gaming Management, Igloo Storage, Ceres Homes, Lepanto Consolidated Mining and GNPower.

Their projects are related to food packaging, gaming and entertainment, low-cost mass housing, cold storage facilities, copper extraction and power generation—the last two of which are worth P3 billion and P43.9 billion, respectively.

The projects were given pioneer status but were not given an income tax holiday.

The applications of these firms were processed under a recently adopted scheme where the Department of Finance is represented in the board and can recommend whether to grant income tax holiday to investors.

The new scheme is aimed at resolving disagreements between the trade and finance departments on whether tax exemptions for investors are beneficial to the government.

Trade officials believe tax perks are key in attracting investments while finance officials think these are responsible for billions of pesos in foregone revenues and even tax leaks.

When reached for comment, Trade Undersecretary and BOI Managing Head Elmer C. Hernandez admitted that some firms were seeking a review of their registration with the agency.

"That is their right considering board decisions can be appealed within 30 days of the date of notice (of the approval of an applicant's BOI listing)," Hernandez said, declining to say anything further.

Last July, trade officials said registration with the Board of Investments no longer ensured entitlement to tax perks as Malacañang pushed fiscal consolidation.

This means that the BOI is going easy on granting tax breaks and other incentives.

Still, investors are assured that they could import capital goods duty-free and avail themselves of other fiscal and nonfiscal incentives.

Before the rules were changed, projects that were given pioneer status were qualified for a six- to eight-year ITH while non-pioneer ventures could get tax exemptions for up to four years.

The new rules provided that while evaluation of projects would now go through consultations with the DOF, the BOI still has the authority to overrule the DOF's recommendations.

The DOF has never been represented in the BOI although the DOF, along with the National Economic Development Authority, used to be part of the team that formulates the Investment Priorities Plan every year.

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as of October 13, 2006

SELLING		BUYING	
ALABANG A	1.1M	ALABANG A	1.020M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	490K	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	PLS CALL
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	440K	CAMP JOHN HAY	260K
CLUB FILIPINO	80K	CLUB FILIPINO	PLS. CALL
EAGLERIDGE B	260K	EAGLERIDGE B	PLS. CALL
EAGLERIDGE C	330K	EAGLERIDGE C	320K
FOREST HILLS B	100K	EASTRIDGE B	80K
LUISITA GOLF	300K	FOREST HILLS A	70K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	200K	LUISITA GOLF	250K
MANILA GOLF CORP	13.0M	MANILA GOLF CORP.	12.5M
MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS CALL	MANILA GOLF IND	PLS. CALL
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	650K	MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS CALL
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200K	MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	290K
METROPOLITAN CLUB	150K	MIMOSA IND	180K
MIMOSA-IND	230K	ORCHARD A	170K
MT MALARAYAT A	200K	ORCHARD C	300K
MT MALARAYAT C	400K	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB C	200K
ORCHARD B	360K	SHERWOOD HILLS B	75K
ORCHARD C	400K	SPA & LODGE	450K
ROYALE TAGAYTAY C	100K	STA. ELENA A	1.250M
SPA & LODGE	550K	STA. ELENA B	1.7M
STA. ELENA "A"	1.5M	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	600K
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	WACK WACK	6.2M

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As of October 16, 2006
SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000/1,200,000*	-
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	500,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	250,000
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	280,000*/350,000**	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/150,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,600,000
Manila Polo	2,000,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	200,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/550,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	190,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	160,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/190,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,250,000	1,800,000*
Subic Golf	190,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/180,000*	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

Tel. 8504151 (0917)3287789
E-mail: info@gwclubshares.com
website: www.gwclubshares.com

GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker # 00131 • As of October 16, 2006

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,050,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	50,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	600,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,800,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	90,000
Club Filipino	95,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	190,000	120,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	220,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,300,000
Manila Polo	3,000,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	310,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	Please Call
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	230,000	160,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	600,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	180,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	330,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	375,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	150,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	480,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,150,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,140,000	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	230,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,300,000

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Wendy's sets ₱100-million investment

By Christine A. Gaylican

WENDY'S HAMBURGERS PHILIPPINES (WenPhil) Corp. will invest some P100 million in the expansion of its branch network and the marketing of its brand of healthier food options to cafeterias in schools, offices and hospitals.

WenPhil president Elizabeth Pardo-Orbeta said coming up with a healthier menu was part of its strategy to corner a bigger slice of the middle-income market, which is increasingly becoming more value and health conscious.

Pardo-Orbeta said the Wendy's fast-food chain does not only compete with other quick service restaurants but with the street peddlers offering complete meals to office workers and students.

"Part of our plan is to expand Wendy's "super value menu" that offers complete meals worth P29 to remain competitive," she said.

This would be done, she said, without losing sight of the Wendy's core menu of burgers and fries.

She added that Wendy's would remain committed to serving more healthy food in compliance with the Department of Health's directive.

"Unlike in the past, customers can now order grilled, pure-beef patties without the buns, fresh salad without the usually cholesterol-loaded mayonnaise dressing, or plain baked potato which is rich in carbohydrates. It also now has low-sugar iced tea," she added.

She said that the company would promote DOH's "healthy lifestyle corner" in its stores nationwide.

The spot will have a weighing scale, body mass index instructional guide and other materials promoting a healthy lifestyle.

According to WenPhil Corp.'s general manager Jason John W.S. Lim, the company plans to build 75 Fresh Express stations offering fresh salads and other Wendy's meal products.

By the end of this year, the company will complete the construction of 30 Fresh Express stations.

Wendy's new Fresh Express salad stations provided the needed boost to sales, which should put the company on its way to growing by at least 10 percent by the end of the year, Lim said.

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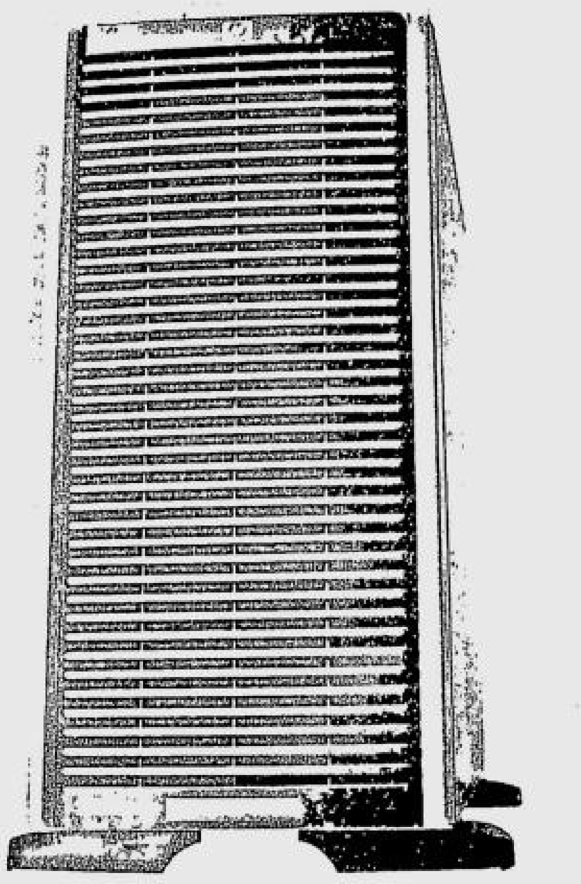

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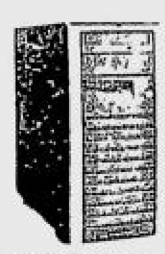

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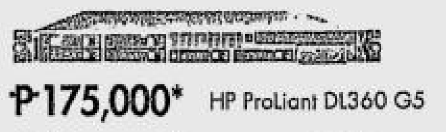

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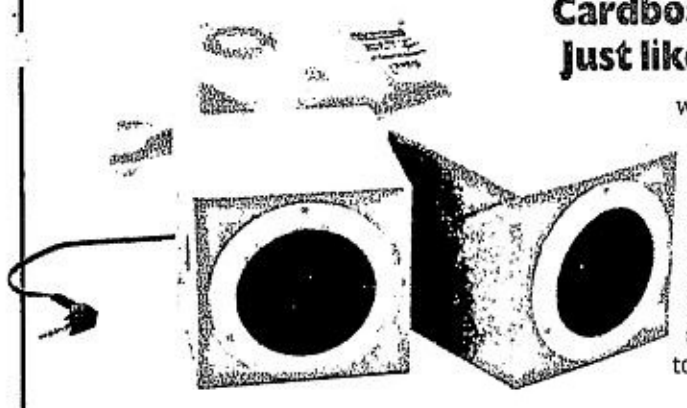
A slice of Mobile Philippines' tech Eden



Cardboard Speakers: Just like a gift box

www.mujionline.co.uk

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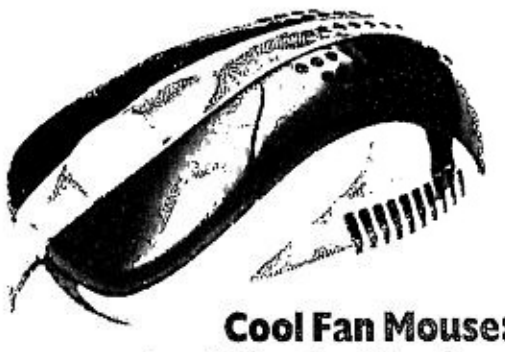
Future iMac: Down, Mac lovers

This is just the latest concept of illustrator and designer Adam Benton. This design features a 30" LCD screen that's transparent when not in use. The keyboard is even embellished with light-sensitive keys. The whole setup has a fragile effect that will make you wonder, "Can I actually touch this thing without breaking it?" Let's keep our fingers crossed on this one.

Etched RAZR: No-pain tattoo

www.mobilewhack.com

Motorola is offering this "tattooed" version of its clamshell cellphone. Exclusively designed for Motorola by Ami James of Miami Ink, the Chinese dragon print is laser-etched on the phone's aluminum body. Next stop for you: work on that Jet Li stunt, pronto.



Cool Fan Mouse: Anything but boring

www.logisyscomputer.com

Tired of using your boring, white mouse? Try this ergonomically designed mouse with air circulation holes and shutters. It comes with a six-feet long coil-coated wire and USB/PS2 combo connectors. It even has LED light, which illuminates the body of the mouse. It pretty much has an effect of a flashing saber sword. Only it isn't. But then, you can still imagine.

Swapsets: Finally! Something for girls

www.swapsets.com

These headphones, which are compatible with most portable music players, come with a line of headbands and dangles. The earphones are attached to bendable boom arms for individual adjustments. The specially-designed headphone clasps, where the drop earrings are attached, fit directly into the headband. These are fashion and music passion rolled into one!

iPod-ready jacket: Perfect for the iPod-ready jeans

www.kenpofashion.com

After Levi's iPod jeans comes this spring and active wear jacket from Kenpo. Powered by Eleksen's ElekTex "smart fabric technology," this jacket features a five-button switch sensor on its left sleeve for controlling iPod functions. The ElekTex control pad requires no batteries and supports most iPod models.

e-Solar Anchorage Bag: Every geek wants one

www.pacoutdoor.com

Isn't it frustrating when your gadget runs out of power just when you most need it? Well, here comes every mobile warrior's wish. The e-Solar Anchorage bag features a solar panel for charging your gadgets. It provides power to your USB and 12V lighter-based devices. You'll never be batt-empty again.

EarBuddy: Love your iPod earbuds

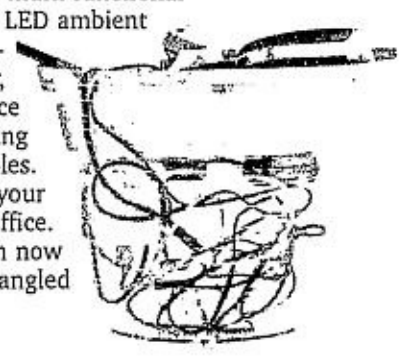
www.sendstation.com

One of the most neglected iPod accessory is the iPod earbuds. Show some TLC by stashing them in the earBuddy. This carrying case is one of the few safe places to store your earbuds. It's so nifty you can even use it as a keychain!

Magic MultiPot: It's a lamp, a socket, and a bucket

www.questodesign.com

This hybrid, multi-functional lamp combines a LED ambient light, multi-socket, and a lower, vase-shaped space used for stowing away extra cables. It's perfect for your home and your office. There's no reason now to stumble on tangled wires.



Canon PowerShot A640: It keeps getting better

www.canon.co.uk

The Canon Powershot A640 features a rotating 2.5" vari-angle LCD, 4x optical zoom lens and maximum ISO800 sensitivities. There are 21 shooting modes to choose from. Its second Curtain Sync function allows for creative flash exposures, and its My Colours function makes artistic photo effects possible. What more can you ask for? Oh, did we mention it's a 10-megapixel camera?

Ain't no mountain high enough: A fresh look at GPS

By Art Ilano
Contributor

GPS STANDS FOR GLOBAL POSITIONING System. It helps keep planes flying in the right direction, prevents groups on Mount Everest expeditions from losing their way, and guides ships through the vast expanse of the earth's oceans.

The good news is that anybody can get access to this service provided one happens to have a GPS receiver, which currently comes in all shapes and sizes. Have GPS in hand, and you will know precisely where in the world you are (even if, say, you were dropped off a plane into the middle of nowhere).

How it works

Somewhere over our heads, miles above, over two dozen satellites have been positioned strategically as signal beacons to guide everyone else planted on terra firma. Think of these satellites as landmarks that give us an idea where we are. Except that these satellites are too far away to serve as landmarks, so the navigation is done via radio signals.

There are 27 satellites orbiting the earth. Only 24 are actually needed, but there is always the possibility that a satellite or two would inadvertently fail, so three are up there as backup units.

Trilate... what?

To identify your current position, you will need a GPS receiver to collect the signals from these satellites. The satellites transmit unique, coded digital signals with time stamps incorporated in the satellites, courtesy of onboard atomic clocks that have been fitted into each satellite. Our GPS receivers, whether handheld or built into planes and other transport, gather these data and, by calculating the distance between the receiver and the satellites, generate the correct coordinates.

The calculation isn't that tough to do. Each satellite transmits its unique code, orbital location, as well as a time stamp. To a GPS receiver, this serves as the "landmark" data, except that the receiver calculates the satellite's distance using the time it took for the signal to reach the receiver (this is where the timestamp comes in handy). With data from four satellites, the receiver can "trilaterate" its position. Note that the difference between trilateration and triangulation is that while the latter uses the computation of angles of known points to compute a position, the former makes use of distances.

The receiver does these computations continuously in order to fine-tune the data, even double-checking the calculations versus other satellites beyond the minimum four that are required. This is why it takes some time for a GPS receiver to process the data.

Way cool waypoints

A standard feature among GPS receivers is waypoints. Waypoints are any set of coordinates that help you get to a particular destination. For instance, if you want to go to Baguio, a waypoint set may include coordinates for the entrance of the North Luzon Expressway, and then Tarlac City, and so on along key intersections until you finally reach Baguio City. Your GPS would keep track of where you are and point you toward your next waypoint, thus simplifying your navigation.

The future is on track

Technically, the GPS system is "owned" by the United States. Which means that it is always theoretically possible (although unlikely) for the United States to prevent other countries from using it.

This is why other countries are building their own satellite positioning systems as well. For instance, the European Union has been busy putting together the Galileo program, which will launch its own set of satellites into space, offering a souped-up version of the aging GPS system.

For all intents and purposes, however, GPS is alive and well and may be of use for the foreseeable future. That is, unless more than three of its satellites eventually conk out... Ouch.

(See the September-October issue of Mobile Philippines for more reviews, previews, tips and handy tech tricks, hands-on reviews on the Nokia N71 and Samsung SGH-D520, Astone Xinc Ultra, Altec Lansing XT2, Sony Cybershot DSC-W100, Nokia 6708, and many more. Mobile also gives you the lowdown on high-tech car alarms and a preview on a multimillion-peso laptop. Step by step articles on photography, music shopping from iTunes, and blogging are also featured. And find out what the editors chose as Mobile's Pick of the Month.)

Bank of Cebu appeals closure order

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—BANK OF CEBU OFFIcials have asked Congress to conduct an inquiry on the closure and receivership order issued by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against the bank.

Bank of Cebu president and chief executive officer Ephraim Salcedo sent a letter on October 9 to Rep. Jaime Lopez, chairman of the House Committee on Banks and Financial Institutions, asking him to initiate a congressional inquiry on the closure of the seven branches of the Bank of Cebu last August 31.

According to Salcedo, the BSP and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. abused their authority when they placed the bank under receivership, claiming that there was no basis for issuing a closure order.

"Hopefully, with a proper congressional investigation, we will be able to correct a very fatal flaw in the law to ensure the protection of the depositors and the employees of the banks from abuses committed by the officials, officers and staff of the BSP and PDIC," Salcedo said in a letter sent to media.

Bank of Cebu,,one of the oldest banks in Cebu, has around 8,000 depositors, 98 percent of whom are covered by PDIC insurance.

3 coco processing plants set in Leyte

Abundant supply attracts investors

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—AT LEAST THREE NEW coconut-based processing plants, with a combined investment of more than P1 billion, will start operations in Leyte before the year ends, said Philippine Coconut Authority regional manager Edilberto Niervas.

Niervas named two of the new firms in Leyte as Tacloban Oil and SC Global.

Tacloban Oil has started construction of its facility in Tolosa town and will start operations by November at the latest, he said.

Niervas placed the company's initial investment at P250 million.

Once operational, its daily output would reach 300 metric tons.

SC Global's investment, on the other hand, was estimated at between P500 million and P700 million.

The plant is expected to start operations in Barangay Caridad of Baybay town by December this year.

Aside from a coconut oil mill, the company plans to set up processing units for coconut fiber and other coconut-based products.

Niervas said PCA expected at least one more coconut processing plant to rise in Catarman, Northern Samar by the end of the year.

Another company has likewise expressed plans to set up an integrated coconut processing facility in Barangay Can-untog in Ormoc City.

Aside from these new projects, Niervas said other foreign investors called the PCA regional office to signify their interest in investing in the coconut industry in Eastern Visayas.

"They (foreign investors) saw that the supply [of coconut materials] is abundant here [in the region]," he said.

A big group of Chinese businessmen coming from Beijing and Hong Kong will visit the region next week for a possible investment in a coconut-based industry in the region, Niervas said.

The PCA regional manager disclosed that Eastern Visayas, which has been the third coconut-producing region in the country for several years now, is slowly moving up to second place because of increased production.

According to Niervas, the region has 649,000 hectares of coconut land that are planted to 72 million coconut trees, 51 million of which are nut-bearing.

The PCA, in cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Agriculture and Cabinet officer for regional development Secretary Gabriel Claudio, will hold a one-day investors and producers forum on Oct. 25 to discuss industry concerns and opportunities.

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National Meat Inspection Service 34th Anniversary
MEAT SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK 2006

October 16 - 20, 2006

Theme: *"Konsumer, Industriya at Gobyerno...Produkto'y May Katiyakan Kung Sama-sama ang Ugnayan."*

MESSAGES

MALACANAN PALACE
MANILA

*Warmest greetings to the officials and staff of the **National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)** as you hold your **Meat Safety Consciousness Week (MSCW)** in commemoration of your 34th **Anniversary.***

*We can achieve a truly sustainable economic growth if we can enhance our trade and industry sector, which includes our meat industry. Your theme, **"Konsumer, Industrya at Gobyerno... Produkto'y May Katiyakan Kung Sama-sama ang Ugnayan,"** speaks well of your commitment to ensure that consumers are always assured of quality and safe meat products.*

I also commend your Meat Fair, Lakbay Aral, Annual Search for Best Meat Establishment and other programs aimed at promoting and advancing the meat industry. These activities will surely contribute to giving our country a competitive edge in the global market. With your help, we can beat the odds.

May you have a meaningful celebration. Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

*I congratulate the men and women of the **National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)** on the occasion of your 34th **Anniversary** and this year's celebration of "Meat Safety Consciousness Week."*

*The theme, **"Konsumer, Industriya, at Gobyerno: Produkto'y May Katiyakan Kung Sama-sama ang Ugnayan,"** underscores the need for cooperation and unity as we work toward the attainment of our shared objectives.*

At a time when the Philippine economy is moving with increasing pace toward modernization and free trade, the goals and mandate of the NMIS gain even greater relevance.

Changes in consumer lifestyles are driving the demand for greater assurance that food is safe to eat, and is of the best possible quality. In answer to these demands, the NMIS continuously accredits world-class meat processing establishments throughout the archipelago, and is even now strengthening the competitiveness of Filipino meat products by aggressively promoting Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and intensifying the implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) programs.

The Department of Agriculture therefore commends the NMIS for yet another year of excellent service to the Filipino people, and joins the agency's call for renewed vigilance and cooperation in the bid to ensure the health and welfare of consumers, here and abroad.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Secretary

Gov't and industry in unified effort to promote safe meat

THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE (NMIS) LEADS the nationwide observance of Meat Safety Consciousness Week (MSCW) coinciding with its 34th Anniversary this week. The double celebration kicks off today, October 16, 2006.

NMIS, which is mandated to spearhead the MSCW celebration, has lined up various activities for the week-long event, including Meat Fair, signing of new regulations, a series of Lakbay-Aral, and the NMIS Management Consultative Conference.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban leads this morning's ribbon-cutting ceremonies to formally open the Meat Fair at the NMIS New Conference Hall.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Konsumer, Industriya at Gobyerno...Produkto'y May katiyakan Kung Sama-sama ang Ugnayan," which underscores the importance of the unified effort forged by major stakeholders of the meat industry to promote the safety of meat and meat products.

The emergence of food-safety related risks posed by pathogenic microorganisms, chemical substances, and environmental hazards in the food supply are just some of the many dangers that consumers encounter. Although many countries are increasingly focusing in combating hazards in meat, a lot of consumers are still vulnerable to the dangers of unsafe meat.

This week-long observance should drum up public awareness of the importance to public health of safe meat and meat products. It also emphasizes the crucial role of the meat industry and the prime movers of meat inspection work in ensuring clean meat for the consuming public.

Crucial Role

Food industry management, whether large industries or small and medium-scale firms, are now realizing that their main concern is not profit but the responsibility of providing safe food to their customers. Indeed, everyone who processes or prepares food must be responsible for the safety of that food.

Meat establishments today are keen in adopting the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program, a prevention-oriented strategy being implemented by the NMIS. Though it does not guarantee absolute safety in meat and meat products, it reduces the risk to the barest minimum.

With HACCP in place, the critical points in food preparations where things can go wrong are identified and closely monitored to mimimize the risk of producing a hazardous product. HACCP can be implemented at all levels of food preparation and processing, from a micro-establishment to a large-scale enterprise.

There are now 52 meat establishments all throughout the country that are HACCP certified. Meat and meat products coming from these establishments are certified safe and free from any hazardous substance.

The Executive Director's Report

Dr. Minda S. Manantan, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Executive Director, NMIS, said the NMIS is working not only to make Philippine meat and meat products competitive in the world market. The Philippines is also eyeing the rich European Union market as the next destination of its meat and meat products. According to Dr. Manantan, a technical working group has been formed to oversee the requirements needed for the ;opening up of export initiatives in the EU.

Below are excerpts from the Executive Director's Report:

The production of safe meat for consumers is the most important responsibility of NMIS. As of September 2006, there are 324 meat establishments accredited by the National Meat Inspection Service:

- **Slaughterhouse – 91**
- **Poultry Dressing Plant- 65**
- **Meat Processing Plant- 113**
- **Cold Storage – 42**
- **Meat Cutting Plant- 13**

The NMIS is very active in the surveillance and monitoring and control of "Hot Meat" or meat that came from illegally slaughtered animals. For 2005, NMIS, in tandem with the Local Government Units, confiscated and disposed of 15,518 kilograms of "hot meat." As of September this year, there are already 11,681 kilograms of "hot meat" seized and disposed.

Formulation of policies and guidelines on all matters pertaining to meat inspection and meat hygiene is a matter of importance to NMIS. Currently, there are four regulations being drafted to regulate meat safety and hygiene namely:

- **National Veterinary Drug Residue Program**
- **Guidelines on Prohibiting of Flooding of Food Animals**
- **Meat Establishment Improvement Program**
- **Guidelines on Pre-Border Measures for Export of Meat in the Philippines**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
MEAT SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK 2006
October 16-20, 2006

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Monday, October 16	8.00 am	*Stand-up Against Poverty (MDG) (BAI, FIDA, FPA, NDA, NMIS)	PAHC Compound
	9.00 am	Ribbon-Cutting of Meat Fair Blessing of New Conference Hall Opening Ceremony Message Sec. Domingo F. Panganiban Signing of New Regulations • Veterinary Drug Residue Program • Flooding of Food Animals in Animal Facilities and Abattoir • Pre Bo rder Measures for the Export of meat and meat products to the Philippines Tour of Meat Fair and NMIS Facilities	NMIS New Conference Hall
Tuesday, October 17	8.00 am 10-11.30 1.00 pm	Holy Mass Lakbay-Aral Tour (Batch 1) Livelihood Session 1	NMIS New Conference Hall
Wednesday, October 18	9.00-10am 10 30-11:30 8 00 am to 5 00 pm	Lakbay-Aral (Batch 2) Livelihood Session Employees Day • Physical Fitness • Medical Check Up	NMIS New Conference Hall Lab Conf Hall
Thursday October 19	9.00-10 00 10 00-11:00 8.00-5:00	Lakbay-Aral (Batch 3) Livelihood Session NMIS Management Consultative Conference	NMIS New Conference Hall LSD Conf. Room
Friday October 20	8-12 am 1.00 pm 1:30 pm 3.30-4:00 pm 4 00 pm onwards	NMIS Management Consultative Conference Part I. Presentation Meat Establishment Improvement Plan Part II Awarding Ceremony: Search for the Best Meat Establishment 2006 Part III. Awarding Ceremony Search for NMIS Best Employees 2006 Part IIINMISEA Raffle Draw Part IV. Oktoberfest	NMIS Conf. Hall BSWM BSWM NMIS Grounds NMIS Grounds

THEME: "Konsumer, Industriya at Gobyerno... Produkto'y May Katiyakan Kung Sama-sama ang Ugnayan"

* Stand-up Against Poverty is FAO initiated and aims to set a record of most number of individuals pledging to attain the Millennium Development Goals of United Nations. Those joining are requested to come early and be in white T-SHIRT.

Special Thanks to:
PUREFOODS HORMEL
CHICKEN STATION
MONTEREY
Meats You Can Trust
BURGER MACHINE
LIGO
Quality Products
Greetings!
ELDON INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
Meat Importers & Traders Association (MITA)

MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER — *Project Reference Number*
Name of Project
Brgy. # 6 San Julian, Batac, Ilocos Norte

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	"Procurement of Drugs and Medicines, Medical/Surgical, Dental & X-ray Supplies, Laboratory Supplies & Reagents and Medical Equipment".
Location	Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center – Training Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte
Brief Description	Procurement of Various Drugs & Medicines, Med /Surgical, Dental & X-ray Supplies, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents and Medical Equipment used for daily maintenance and operations.
Approved Budget For the Contract & Source of Fund	a. Drugs & Medicines = Php 25,080,000.00 (Revolving Fund, Oxygen Fund & Regular Fund) b. Laboratory Supplies and Reagents = Php 6,101,000.00 (Regular fund, Income Fund, Crossmatching) c. Med. / Surgical, Dental & X-ray Supplies = Php 8,384,500.00 (Regular fund, Income Fund, Hemo Trust Fund) d. Medical Equipment = Php 5,057,259.00 (Income, LBP-Medicare Trust fund)
Contract Duration	180 DAYS
Delivery Period	: January 01 – June 30, 2007

For Contracts involving delivery of goods:

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contrct shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 30 – November 17, 2006
2.	Pre-bid Conference	November 6, 2006
3.	Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (*If single-stage bidding is used, delete this Activity*)	October 30 – November 17, 2006
4.	Opening of Bids	November 21 – 23, 2006
5.	Bid Evaluation	November 24 – December 08, 2006
6.	Post-qualification	December 11 – 18, 2006
7.	Notice of Award	December 20 – January 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS only (Php 2,500.00) to the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center Cashier.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MONA LIZA B. PASTRANA, M.D., FPOGS
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
Telephone No. 813-3353 & 221-3114 Telefax No. 813-2141
E-mail address: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph

Standard Form Number - 05
Revised on July 29, 2004
Contract Reference Number: 300-06-0015

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Construction of Talakag Water Supply
Location	Talakag, Bukidnon
Brief Description	Const. of 1 unit Intake Box, Installation of G.I. uPVC pipes with a length of 28,781 meters, Construction of River Crossing Structure at Batang River and Construction 26,000.00 Gallons and Construction of 2 units 6,000.00 gallons ground reservoir
Contract Reference Number	300-06-0015
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 26,819,021.00
Contract Duration	365.00 Calendar Days including rainfall allowance

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

1.	Advertisement	October 9-23, 2006
2	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility Forms	October 23, 2006 until 9:00 A.M. only
3.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 25, 2006
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 26, 2006
5.	Pre-Bid	October 31, 2006
6.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 14, 2006, 2:00 P.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount at P200.00. Eligibility Form to the Provincial Treasurer Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Malaybalay City. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by BAC Secretariat at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the Bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00.

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved:

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 10 & 16, 2006)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines

6CB-3SC-142

PURCHASE OF GARBAGE BINS & BIN LIFTER
(Name of Project)
2 Items of Different Bins (pls. see also details @ www.gensantos.gov.ph)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Five Million Eight Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Pesos (P5,872,960.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of Garbage Bins & Bin Lifter. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid Opening.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Garbage Bins & Bin Lifter. Delivery of the GOODS is required by 45 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Local Government Unit of General Santos City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government of Unit of General Santos will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested on **October 27, 2006**, 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of November 9, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a half Percent (1 ½ %) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2 ½ %) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid opening shall be on **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of November 9, 2006** at the **BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
Gina Y. Pigar
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 302-7210
Fax: (083) 301-0553
website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 16 & 23, 2006)

NEECO II
Area 2

NUEVA ECIJA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 2
Maharlika Highway, Diversion,
San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija
Tel./Fax: 044-4863668

The **Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) – Area 2** is inviting you to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE EXTENSION OF 7.120 KILOMETERS THREE – PHASE PRIMARY LINE that will supply the electricity requirements of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Dam located at Brgy. Singalat, Palayan City.

Deadline for the submission of company profile will be simultaneous with the Pre-bid Conference on OCTOBER 24, 2006 at exactly **10:30 A.M.** at the Conference Room of NEECO II - Area 2. Bidding proper will be on **OCTOBER 27, 2006** at exactly **10:00 A.M.** Non-refundable registration fee is P3,000.00.

NEECO II Area-2 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waived defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to NEECO II Area-2.

(Sgd.) CLARENCE ARISTON M. PAREDES
PBAC Chairman
Cell No. 0917 985 8937

Noted by:

(Sgd.) RAMON M. DE VERA
General Manager

(PDI – Oct. 15 & 16, 2006)

ONLINE **www.henrybutcher.com**

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Sale Closing: Thursday, 19th October 2006 at 18:00 CCT (Local Time)
Located: Cavite, Philippines

Viewing: Strictly by Appointment
To register please visit our website: www.henrybutcher.com

For further information please contact Chris Major at
Tel: 852 2910/11 loc. 110 Email: chris.major@henrybutcher.com

Goindustry Henry Butcher

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Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Phils.
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Fax No.: +63 2 831-9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com

BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MFG. CORP
#9 K. PORONG STREET, PUNTURIN, VALENZUELA CITY

URGENTLY NEEDED

One (1) Computer Programmer

Strong development expertise in MS-SQL Server 2000 including Server reporting services and Microsoft Access Programming
Must be independent, resourceful, results-oriented, a self motivated team player and ability to multi- task
Highly analytical, highly creative, and has excellent interpersonal skills.
Strong communication skills (English written and oral)
Excellent technical solving problem skills

Interested applicants can call up 443-4321/ 443-4050 or 443-4070 for schedule of interview.

Email: nfe_angeln@fashionexpress.com.hk

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to bid/negotiate for the SALE/LEASE/ JOINT VENTURE on an "as-is where-is" basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sq.m.)	Floor Price (PhP) Total	
I. SECOND OFFERING – SALE			
1. Cutcut, Angeles City, Pampanga	324	875,000	
2. Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac *	3,751	4,329,000	
3. San Jose, Mindoro Occidental *	10,000	3,000,000	
4. Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	4,912,000	
5. Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan ^	1,394	4,321,000	
6. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	1,202	3,606,000	
7. Kasambagan, Cebu City *	597	3,014,000	
8. Kasambagan, Cebu City *	1,414	6,991,000	
II. NEGOTIATED SALE			
1. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City *	4,470	670,500	
2. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City *	6,529	979,350	
3. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City *	2,705	4,719,000	
4. Salapungan, Tarlac City *	1,185	2,918,000	
5. Talomo, Davao City	421	1,263,000	
6. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan '	231	231,000	
7. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	315	315,000	
8. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	356	356,000	
9. Kayumanggi, Lipa City, Batangas	625	850,000	
10. Tagbilaran, Bohol	1,388	1,388,000	
11. Tagbilaran, Bohol	4,367	5,240,400	
12. Andal-Aliño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	396	356,000	
13. Gogon, Legazpi City	8,598	12,897,000	
III. NEGOTIATED LEASE			
Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas	8,962	120,400/mo.	1,445,000/yr.
IV. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE			
1 **Alangan, Limay, Bataan** * Contiguous vacant lots with fence; ideal for industrial, residential subdivision and/or agricultural development	584,147	Sale (PhP) 67,482,000	Lease (PhP) 84,353/mo. 1,012,000/yr
2. **PNOC Housing Compound** in Bolo, Bauan, Batangas with existing 40 housing units, clubhouse, guesthouse located along a national road; ideal for industrial, commercial and/or residential development. *This Property is also open for Joint Venture Development through public bidding*	59,323	128,684,000	475,768/mo. 5,709,206/yr.

* with informal dwellers
^ with informal dwellers, 615.76 sq.m. portion leased to a private entity; also, a 540 sq.m. portion was traversed by a Brgy. Road
' 169 sq.m. portion affected by a provincial road project; also, a 26.5 portion is subject of a civil case
' with existing easement (area: 49 sq.m.)
* with existing easement (area: 142.91 sq.m.)
' net of 32 sq.m. portion which was sold to the owner of adjacent lot

Bid forms, Letter of Intent to Negotiate, Bidding/Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured after payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 during office hours of **October 16-27, 2006; Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm** from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on **October 30, 2006 (2:00pm)** and **November 8, 2006 (2:15pm)**, respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6.

For parties interested to bid for the **Joint Venture of PNOC Bauan Housing**, schedule of activities are as follows: 1) Submission of Letter of Intent to apply for eligibility (Oct. 16-23, 8am to 5pm); 2) Submission of eligibility documents (Oct. 24 - Nov. 7, 8am to 5pm); 3) Opening of eligibility documents (Nov. 8, 2:15pm); 4) Eligibility check, Issuance of Notice of Eligibility and bid documents to eligible bidders after payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 (Nov. 9-28, 8am to 5pm); 5) Pre-bid conference for all eligible bidders **(Nov. 29, 2pm)**; 6) Dropping of bids (Dec. 13, 8am to 2pm); and 7) Opening of bids **(Dec. 13, 2:15pm)** at the above address.

Award of the sale/lease/joint venture of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID/ OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors.

For properties for negotiation (under items II, III and IV), offerors shall submit their Letter of Intent to PNOC starting the first working day after the first publication of this Notice and thereafter.

The Bidder/Offeror further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for sale/lease/joint venture to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles. The sale/lease/joint venture of the properties shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis and the winning bidder/offeror shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. If for any reason the above-mentioned dates are declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids/offers or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI--Oct. 15 & 16, 2006)

Pag-IBIG Fund
The Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Pag-IBIG Fund intends to apply the sum of Php 39,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the implementation of Integrated Information Systems Project (IISP) covering the following areas:

A. Records Management Study
B. Bidding Process and Project Management Support
C. Development of IT Policies and Procedures

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders, without pending case/s with the Fund, to apply for eligibility and short listing for Consultancy Services for the implementation of Integrated Information Systems Project. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of **October 30, 2006** at Rm. 704, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. The BAC-CS Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) to the Pag-IBIG Fund Cashier. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. **A briefing on eligibility requirements will be held at 1:00 p.m. of November 3, 2006 at Room 602, 6/F The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.** The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **9:00 a.m. of November 7, 2006** at Rm. 704, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Only those that are shortlisted will be entitled to submit bids.

The BAC-CS shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed seven (7) consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

Consultant's References	30%
Performance	70%
Trace Record (70%)	
Job Capacity (30%)	
	100 %

LOIs must be delivered by hand or through mail at the above stated address on or before 5:00 p.m. of **October 30, 2006.**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The Pag-IBIG Fund shall evaluate bids using the **Quality Based Evaluation (QBE)** procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund at this address: The Secretariat. BAC-CS, Rm. 704, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The contract shall be completed within twenty-nine (29) months.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) MS. TESSIE M. GONZALES
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee-Consultancy Services

(PDI--Oct. 16, 2006)

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN*BUY*SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
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BUY * SELL * PAWN
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JOB Market

Alphans assemble Oct. 20

ALL MEMBERS OF THE UP ALPHA Phi Beta Fraternity are called by the Lord Chancellor Raul B. Villanueva to assemble on Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. at the UP College of Law to attend a mass and a motorcade afterwards. Lunch will be served at the University Hotel with Brod Dean Salvador Carlota as speaker. The event will open the Alphan National Convention to be held from Oct. 20 to 22 at the Great Eastern Hotel (Aberdeen Court), 1403 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Inspirational messages will be given by Supreme Court Justices LCE Abraham F. Sarmiento (ret.), Reynato S. Puno and Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Court of Appeals Justices Edgardo Cruz and Arsenio Magpale and Reps. Edcel Lagman, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Robert Ace Barbers and Hans Christian Seneres in the three-day national convention of the fraternity.

For more details, call the national convention secretariat at 931-6442. Look for Lady Chancellor Anna Czarina Peleo, or e-mail annapeleo@yahoo.com, or Vice Lord Chancellor lawyer Pastor "Mar" Reyes Jr at 892-4435 , 813-1553 or e-mail pmreyes@meridiantelekoms.net.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ad:
Landbank of the Philippines A6

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

CENTRAL NEGROS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CENECO)
Cor. Gonzaga – Mabini Sts., Bacolod City

Qualifications:

- 30-50 Years Old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 31 October 2006.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator
(PDI – Oct. 15 & 16, 2006)

CAGAYAN I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Maddarulug, Solana, Cagayan
Tel. Nos. 844-1595, 501-0062

INVITATION TO BID

The Cagayan 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO 1), in compliance with the Guidelines of the Energy Regulatory Commission, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to Construct and Commission a 10 MVA Substation at Sta. Barbara, Piat, Cagayan to include the following:

1. Site Development and Fencing in Sta. Barbara, Piat;
2. Relocation of one (1) unit 10MVA mobile power transformer from Solana to Piat;
3. Supply, delivery of materials and equipment and construction as per bid documents;
4. Construction of a Tender House at Piat;

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Interested bidders shall secure Bid Documents from:

PRE-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PBAC)
CAGELCO 1 Main office
Maddarulug, Solana, Cagayan
Tel. Nos.: 078-8441595, 501-0062, 501-0882
Fax No. 078-844-4528
Email: cagelco1@yahoo.com / lcrr1523@yahoo.com

THE BIDDING SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Release of Intent to Respond Forms	October 25, 2006
Due Date for Intent to Respond and Bid Documents	October 30, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	November 6, 2006
Opening of Sealed Bids	November 10, 2006
Awarding of Winning Bidder	November 20, 2006
Approved Budget	Php 14.4M
Cost of Bidding Documents	Php 25,000.00 (non-refundable)

CAGELCO 1 hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **NENITA B. GUZMAN**
PBAC Chairman
(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2006)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OF MANILA / NORTHERN LUZON
PDO Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., 22 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Manila
Telephone No.: (02) 527-8356 to 83 Facsimile No.:527-4414; 527-4704

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority, PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon invites interested bidders to submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to Bid for the:

A. Name of Project: JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR CY-2007 OF PDO-MANILA/ NORTHERN LUZON

B. Scope of Services:

1. Areas Covered
   a. PDO Proper
   b. PMO South Harbor
   c. PDO North Harbor
   d. PMO Limay
   e. MICT Field Office
   f. VTMS Control Center

C. Approved Budget Cost (ABC) : P5,547,112.32
Funding : PPA Corporate Funds

D. Equipment Requirement:
1. 19-units Floor Polisher, 16"
2. 4-units Heavy Vacuum Cleaner

E. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) & Issuance of Eligibility/Bidding Forms : October 20 to 26, 2006
Cost of Eligibility/Bidding Forms: P2,800.00 (VAT inclusive)
Place of Issuance : c/o BAC Secretariat, PDO-Manila/ N. Luzon

F. Pre-Bid Conference : Oct. 27, 2006, 9:00 AM, Conference Room, 3rd Flr., PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

G. Submission of Bids : Nov. 8, 2006 not later than 8:45 A.M. c/o BAC Secretariat, Conference Room, 3rd Flr., PDO Manila/N. Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

H. Opening of Bids : Nov. 8, 2006, 9:00 A.M. Conference Room 3rd Flr., PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Manila

Pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 07-2006, Section 23.11.2, the prospective bidder must have an experience of having completed within the period specified in the IAEB a single contract that is similar to the contract to be bid, and whose value, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Sealed bids shall be submitted to the BAC for the Procurement of Goods, PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila, which shall be publicly opened in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bidding, Evaluation of Bids and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

Head, BAC Secretariat : Mr. Alex G. Salcedo
PPA-PDO-Manila/Northern Luzon : Tel. Nos. 527-83-56 loc. 416
PPA Website : www.ppa.com.ph

(Sgd.) **OSCAR S. ORNUM**
BAC Chairman
(PDI – Oct. 16, 2006)

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HANFORD KNOWS EXACTLY what young boys need and what moms look for when they choose innerwear for their young ones.

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With days bursting of a myriad of activities, every doting mom sees to it that her little boy gets the comfort he needs to enjoy all the fun events in store for him.

Tiozon added, "Hanford Boys makes mom's job easier as each product is especially designed to offer sufficient comfort to help little boys breeze through the day's activities."

Not only is it designed to suit his active and fun-filled lifestyle, Hanford Boys is also reminiscent of mom's tender, loving care. It is made of the softest of fabrics that's gentle on his young, sensitive skin.

Hanford Boys is designed to provide the utmost in reliable fit and comfort to help these little youngsters garner the confidence they need to freely explore their fullest potentials.

"Mom knows best. We simply listened to her to ensure that Hanford Boys innerwear provides only the best design, style and material that would best suit the needs of a growing boy," said Tiozon.

Hanford Boys innerwear is available at your leading department stores nationwide.

Honda October Treats

NO TRICKS, ONLY TREATS from Honda's newest promo. Honda holds a raffle promo and adds more exciting treats for the October festivity. Shop till you drop with Honda's October raffle promo. Customers who get to purchase any Honda from Oct 5 to 31 have the chance to shop big-time. Ten lucky customers get to win shopping money worth P100,000!

Customers can also drive home the Honda sedan or Honda SUV of their dreams. For a minimum cash outlay of P85,800, drive home a brand new City 1.3A MT while enjoying a low monthly amortization of only P11,057 (60 months). You may also choose to pay only P6,411 monthly (60 months) for the City 1.3A MT with a 50-percent downpayment.

Experience power and riding comfort with the CR-V Select for only P10,910 monthly (for 60 months at 50 percent downpayment). A special financing scheme is also available for the Jazz, Civic and Accord models.

Whether they pay through financing scheme or in cash, Honda buyers get something in return. CR-V cash buyers can enjoy all variants with free Honda VIP insurance.

City, CR-V and Jazz are packaged with additional special gift and benefit. These goodies come with free gasoline coupons or free car accessories worth P5,000.

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Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

OBITUARIES

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

In Loving Memory of

ATTY. LEONARDO GALAROSA RAGAZA SR.

who peacefully joined his Creator on the 13th of October 2006 at the age of 79.

His bereaved children, children-in-law, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at 157 Esperanza St., Longos, Kalayaan, Laguna.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at the Longos Municipal Cemetery after the celebration of the 1:30 p.m. Holy Mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish, Longos, Kalayaan, Laguna.

Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection, if anyone believes in Me, eventhough he dies, he will live, and whoever lives & believes in Me, will never die."

The Rosero Family

Brother : Engr. Jose B. Rosero (†) & wife Ita
Sister : Lane R. Ardales & husband Toto
Nephews : Earl R. Ardales & wife Melissa
Jun R. Ardales
Ruf Serafin V. Rosero & wife Charo
Niece : Ava R. Astorga & husband Elmo
Grandchildren : Lance Joel R. Astorga
Baby Joey P. Rosero

announce with joy & hope the triumphant crossing over from us, to the everlasting love of the Father of our beloved

REV. FR. LINO BAJAR ROSERO

on 10th of October, at the age of 63 after more than 39 fruitful years of service in the Lord's vineyard.

- *His mortal remains lie in state at the Rosero's Residence at 12 Ibañez St. Masbate City*
- *The Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection will be offered at 8:30 AM, Friday, 20 October 2006.*
- *Interment follows immediately at the Milagros Cemetery, Masbate*

In Loving Memory
Of our Daddy's 3rd Death Anniversary

(Ret.) PAL Capt. Gregorio L. Medrana

747 - 400 Pilot
October 16, 2003

"Daddy, we would like you to know how much we dearly miss you. Your wisdom and principles in life have definitely left a legacy, which we will continue to carry on as long as we live. You may have gone to heaven too soon but we know you still find time to visit us because we strongly feel your presence around us.

We love you so much! You were always too perfect that is why, you will always be our model and our hero."

We have arranged a mass offering for our Daddy at the following Churches:

Mary Mother of the Church Parish ..... 6 a.m.
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City
Redemptorist Church (Oct. 17) ..... 6:15 a.m.
Baclaran, Parañaque City
San Jose Village Chapel (Oct. 15) ..... 9:00 a.m.
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Carmelite Church ..... 6:00 a.m.
Lipa City, Batangas
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Church ..... 6:00 a.m.
Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Mary Immaculate Church ..... 6:00 a.m.
Cubao, Quezon City

"We would like to request all the people to whom our Dad has touched their lives, to continue praying for the eternal repose and happiness of his spirit in God's loving kingdom."

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BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING QUEZON CITY BUSINESSMAN. Business tycoon and industrialist Lucio C. Tan (left) receives the Outstanding Businessman Award for 2006 from the Quezon City government during its Gawad Parangal rites coinciding with the city's 67th founding anniversary. Recognized for his business enterprises, employment generation and contributions to charitable causes and community service, Tan was given the award by Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte (second from left) and Quezon City Treasurer Victor Endriga.

RP poised for higher growth in '07, UBS says

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS POISED FOR HIGHER economic growth next year as a narrowing budget deficit paves the way for higher public infrastructure spending and foreign direct investments, according to UBS Investment Research.

In a global equity research dated Oct. 12, UBS said the benefits of tough fiscal measures taken this year would bear more fruit in 2007.

"A lower budget deficit on higher revenues and lower interest payments on its debt could allow government to channel excess funds to pump-priming," said the UBS report authored by analyst Jody Santiago.

The UBS report said the country could post

Investment firm cites fiscal gains

a higher gross domestic product growth of 5.8 percent next year from about 5.2 percent this year, while market earnings were seen rising 17 percent in 2007.

"Possible drivers include higher property sales bookings, lower bank provisioning and a possible uptick in consumption spending, partly aided by election spending," the report said.

These positive factors, UBS said, could help drive up the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index to 3,200.

"Despite the 8.5-percent rise in PHISIX since July, we think that market remains attractive in light of our expected 2007 market earnings growth of 17 percent versus historical valuations," UBS said.

Its top stock picks were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., SM Investments, Megaworld Corp and First Gen.

"We are overweight on property, conglomerates and telecommunications," UBS said. "We upgrade consumer to neutral on increasing purchasing power from lower inflation and downgrade utilities to underweight mainly on our cautious stance on regulated electric utilities," UBS added.

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GOLDEN TRIANGLE

RP, Taiwan, China growth area pushed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FILIPINO-CHINESE BUSINESSMEN HAVE proposed the establishment of a growth area that links the Philippines, Taiwan and southeastern China in a bid to stimulate partnerships among firms and harness the competitive advantages of the three economies.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, said the idea was broached during the Philippine Investment Forum held recently in Xiamen City.

"The reaction is positive, but it has to be a policy among the private sectors," Chua said. "However, this needs support from the governments to make it realizable."

He explained that such a "Golden Triangle" would be beneficial to all parties and was appropriate considering that Beijing was looking at Southeast Asia as an area where it needed to establish economic leadership.

"The proposal is very bold in that this would bring in the Philippines as a factor to the joint development of the Chinese and Taiwanese economies," Chua said.

"This Golden Triangle would be a boost to the development of China's west Taiwan Strait area in line with their unification efforts," he added.

The growth area would specifically link Taiwan and the Philippines to China's southeastern province of Fujian, on the western part of Taiwan Strait.

Fujian has attracted much investments from Taiwan, especially in Xiamen City—also known as Amoy—which is the counterpart of Taiwan's Kaohsiung and the Philippines' Subic special economic zones.

The FFCCCII chief said further that the growth area would synergize Taiwan's manufacturing sector, the Philippines' resources such as managerial personnel, and China's labor and consumer market.

"We will bring this up with the Chinese government officially when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo makes a state visit to Beijing," Chua said.

The Philippines is engaged in a trade liberalization arrangement with China through a framework pact on an Association of Southeast Asian Nations-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation.

Under this framework, Manila had agreed with Beijing to reduce tariffs on about 200 local products through an Early Harvest Program.

On the other hand, the country is developing with Taiwan the Kaohsiung-Subic-Clark growth corridor, linking the productive potentials of the three ecozones.

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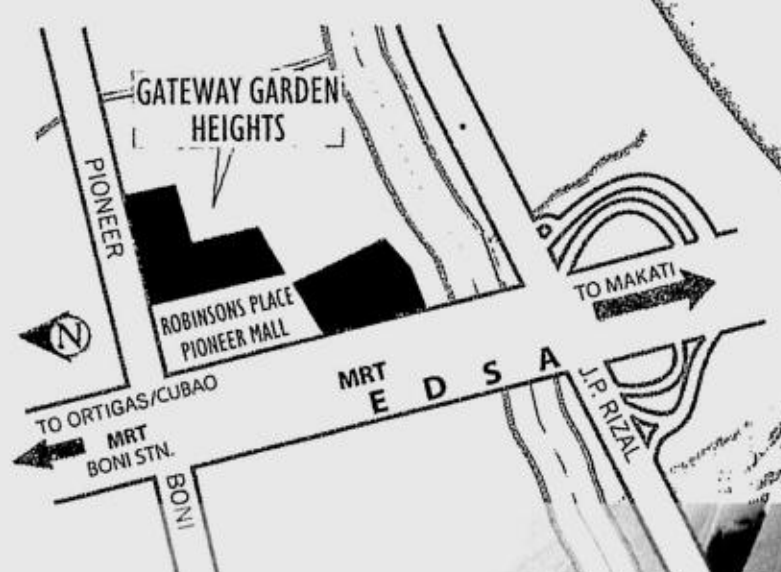

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MONDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B2-1

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Revisiting economic group that is BIMP-Eaga

Growth signs showing nine years after it was born

By Allan Nawal
Inquirer Mindanao

MANADO, INDONESIA—When the Asian financial crisis struck in 1997, the fledgling sub-regional economic cooperation between Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (BIMP) started to falter.

It had been barely three years since talks aimed at accelerating the growth of the four countries' least developed areas were initiated.

Under the East Asian Growth Area (Eaga) concept, the provinces of Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Malacca Islands, West Papua in Indonesia, Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan in Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, would foster closer trade and investment relationships.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, whose administration vigorously pushed the idea of closer ties with the four Southeast Asian neighbors, had projected that the Eaga concept would result in economic growth for Mindanao.

For Ramos, economic growth in Mindanao would also become an effective tool against the Muslim insurgency that has been dogging the Manila government for more than three decades.

Then the currency crisis hit and BIMP Eaga was placed on the back burner.

"*Nagkanya kanya muna* (They went their separate ways)," was how Efren Abu, the current Philippine special envoy to the BIMP-Eaga, described how members of the sub-regional cooperation behaved at the onset of the financial crisis.

Abu says by that time, nobody was talking anymore about BIMP-Eaga, once hailed as the answer to the woes of the least developed areas of Southeast Asia.

"During the time of President Joseph Estrada, it was totally forgotten," he said.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, the idea of revitalizing the Eaga concept surfaced.

The Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) based in Davao City started to pick up the pieces of what was left of the Eaga concept.

Networking with authorities in the three other members of the growth polygon, Medco started to organize trade missions.

By this time, businessmen from General Santos City, who have previously started talks with their counterparts in Indonesia, were making a bold decision.

Mini successes

One group, led by fishing tycoon Doming Teng, trained its sights on Bitung, an hour and a half trip by car from here.

Bitung, strategically located in the rich fishing grounds of Indonesia, looked the most promising place for a tuna cannery plant.

"We exchanged visits several times with our Indonesian partners, practically the output of what we have been doing before in the Eaga," Teng says.

Three years ago, the partnership materialized and PT Sinar Pure Foods International was born.

With $7.7 million in capital, Teng's Signal Marine Ventures and its Indonesian partners took over the ailing Pure Foods facilities inside a 4.5-hectare area in Raya Madidir.

Infusing more that $1 million in additional capital to revive the former Pure Foods business, SMV and its Indonesian partners bought additional machinery and improved existing ones, such as a fishmeal factory, an ice plant and a cold storage facility.

PT Sinar's throughput capacity was raised to 140 metric tons a day although production was only currently at 35-40 MT a day.

"We still have problems with fish supply but we are trying to address that," Teng says.

PT Sinar markets its canned tuna products to Europe (55 percent), the United States (43 percent) and Japan (2 percent).

Last year, PT Sinar's revenues were $20 million, making it the second biggest tuna exporting company in Indonesia.

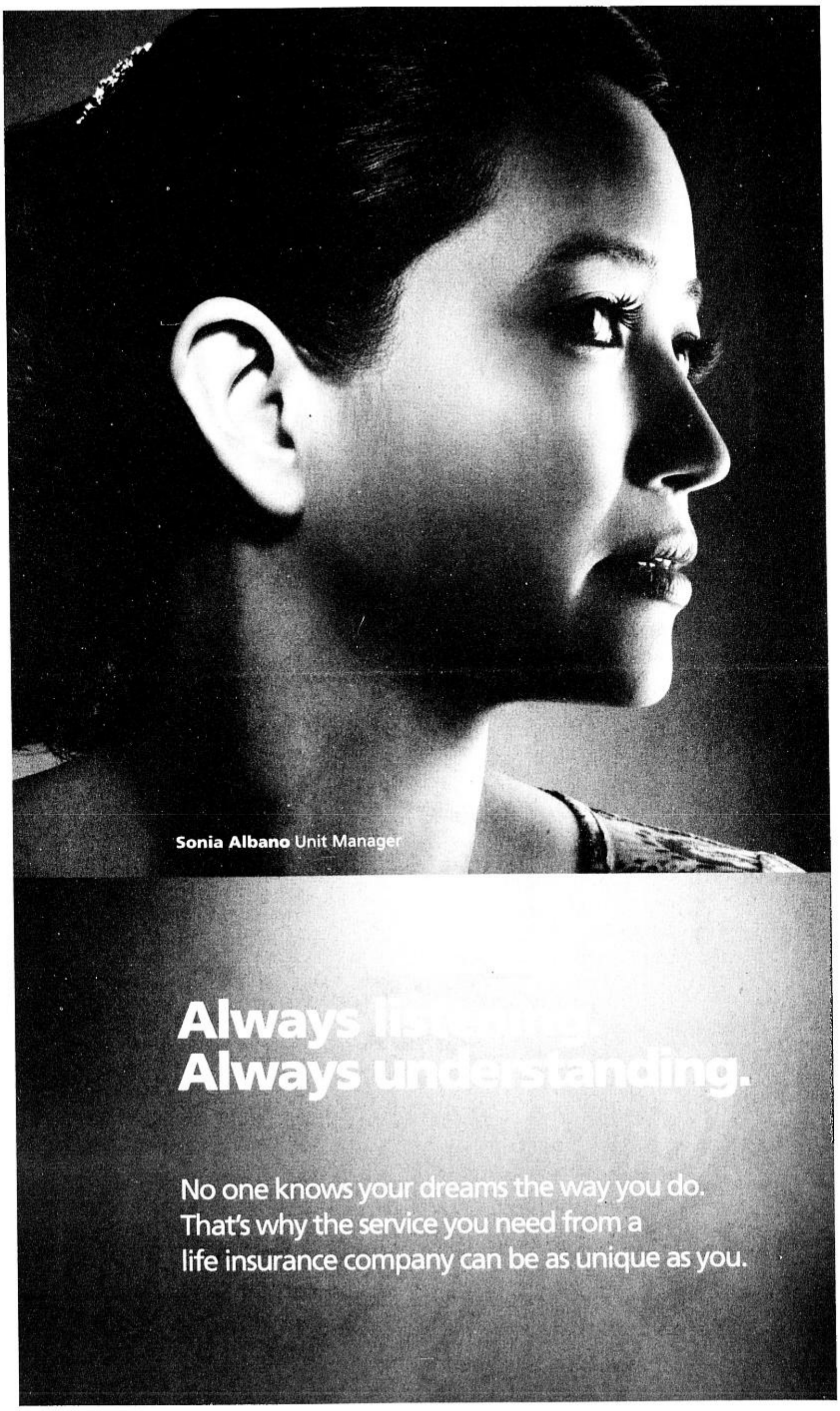
"We are currently developing our Middle East market," he says.

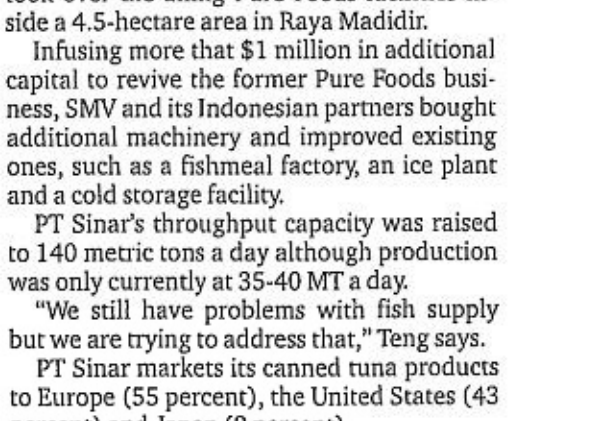
Teng says his group's vision was not only to provide world-class products to consumers but also to generate livelihood and employment under the Eaga concept.

On the Indonesian side, PT Sinar's business has generated 1,000 jobs at the factory alone.

There is also the effect of its activities on

REVISITING/ B2-2





Maybank, One of Asia's Best Banks - Financial Times, 2004

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Country above self

THE STATISTICS THAT I WILL CITE IN my message did not come from me or the MAP. These came from very well-respected and credible organizations like the World Bank, the United Nations and The Economist publication.

We are sometimes tempted to ask ourselves—why should we care about these statistics compiled and interpreted by these foreign entities? Unfortunately we have no choice but to care and to care enough to do something. International perceptions, as translated into country ratings, are critical considerations in the decision of foreign capital to flow into any country. We need to compete and prove ourselves over and over again to gain, and retain, a piece of the global economic pie.

Emerging markets, of which our country is a part, are playing an ever increasing role in the world economy. As the Economist chart shows, emerging-market countries, which are home to 80 percent of the world's population, contribute over 50 percent of the world's output of goods and services.

What the data suggests is that emerging markets are no longer simply manufacturing hubs for advanced economies such as the United States, Japan and Western Europe. With the proliferation of high-speed data transfers and the diminution of telecommunications costs, emerging markets provide business-critical services in the fields of research and development, finance, medicine, law, engineering—and the list grows.

24th largest economy

Indeed, by the World Bank's measure of Purchasing-power Parity GDP, the Philippines is actually the world's 24th largest economy—considerably higher than its current-dollar GDP ranking of 50th.

Our place among the emerging markets is boosted by the export of services in the form of numerous call centers and BPOs that have become the fastest-growing employers of our young graduates. Owing to rich nations' proclivity for business process outsourcing and our relative advantage in terms of skilled workers, we are today the world's 4th largest exporter of IT-enabled services behind India, Canada and Ireland.

Over the years, however, the questions that Filipino policymakers, entrepreneurs and businesspersons shall

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Evelyn R. Singson

have to wrestle with are these: what role shall the Philippines play among emerging economies? How do we avert the tragic decline in our ranking in the last 40 years?

In 1960—or 46 years ago—GDP per capita in the Philippines was higher than in Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia and Myanmar. Today, per capita GDP is higher in Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand. Meanwhile both Taiwan and South Korea are already considered Newly Industrialized Economies.

During the past few years, we also have been held in needles by our country's credit rating, another measure of the credit risk perception by credit rating agencies. Standard and Poors rates the Philippines a "BB-," whereas Taiwan is rated "AA-," South Korea is "A," and Thailand is "BBB+."

Clearly, these countries have come a very long way from where they were 46 years earlier. Today, they are nearly on par with the developed economies of Western Europe. In contrast, our performance over the same span may best be described as "mediocre."

Recently, the World Bank published its annual "Doing Business" survey, ranking 175 countries in terms of how the regulatory and legal environment in these countries encourage investors and business.

Unfortunately for the Philippines, it fell by 5 places in a one-year period—from 121st place in 2005 to 126th place in 2006. So, by the World Bank's reckoning, it is actually easier to do business these days in Lebanon (86), Bosnia and Herzegovina (95), Vietnam (105) and Iran (120) than it is in the Philippines.

The "Doing Business" survey actually contains a set of 10 sub-rankings. Among these is how the country's regulations protect investors. Here, the Philippines is ranked 151st—much worse than its overall ranking. What the survey seems to suggest is that shareholders have better rights-protection in countries such as Timor-Leste, Belarus and Uzbekistan.

The Philippines received a better rating in terms of the ease of paying taxes, ranking 106th. But by this measure, the World Bank says that it is easier to pay taxes in the African nations of Zimbabwe, Eritrea and Nigeria than it is in the Philippines.

The Philippines is in the middle of the pack or even in the upper-third of countries when it comes to enforcing contracts, trading across borders and registering property.

We should pay particularly close attention to our rankings in enforcing contracts since it greatly affects the marketability of our nation as a place for foreign direct investment. At 59th, we are ranked higher than Taiwan, Malaysia and Mexico but lower than Thailand and South Korea, which are ranked 44th and 17th respectively.

Aggressive response

In any case, what do these survey results say about our competitiveness? What has been done in our recent history that has given rise to the perception of outsiders that business conditions in our archipelago are so dismal? More

COUNTRY/ B2-4

Revisiting the economic group . . .

From page B2-1

other industries such as empty cans producers.

"For local fishermen, we also help them by buying their catch," he says.

But what about the Philippine side?

Teng says about 80 percent of PT Sinar's raw materials come from General Santos City.

"Filipino fishermen contribute to the majority of our fish supply. When the financial crisis hit Asia in 1997, the fishing industry in General Santos City was heavily affected. Even in the following years, it hardly recovered," Teng says.

Marfin Tan of the General Santos fishing industry association said PT Sinar's business in Bitung has assured the security and continuity of the fishing sector.

Teng says PT Sinar also imports some of its packaging supplies from Mindanao.

"We still lack supplies for packaging materials and spare parts and this causes cost-leaks because they are sourced elsewhere," he says.

Teng says it would be better if investments in these areas would be made, not only to help PT Sinar lower the cost, but also to help generate livelihood.

A few meters away from PT Sinar, tuna canning company PT Samudra Sentosa stands on a 3.3-hectare area.

Like PT Sinar, the Filipino owners of PT Samudra came to Bitung about three years ago under the BIMP-Eaga concept.

Taking over the existing facilities of a company producing canned vegetables such as asparagus, the General Santos-based Damalerio Group of Companies infused more capital to establish a tuna canning plant.

"We are 100 percent Filipino-owned," Gary Damalerio, PT Samudra's operations officer, says.

Like PT Sinar, Damalerio's company exports its produce to the United States.

"We are also trying to source more fish because we cannot maximize our capacity because of under supply," he says.

Currently, PT Samudra gets half of its supply from General Santos City.

"We want to see an increase in the future. Our fishermen do not have the capability right now because of lack of fishing boats," he explains.

Reviving talks

The apparent success of the two companies under the Eaga concept has encouraged government officials to revive talks on economic cooperation.

Abu says upcoming talks—including the one scheduled at the sidelines of the Asean summit in Cebu this year—between Eaga players would center on "doable" things such as trading linkages.

"This is a good start," he comments.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez says he wanted the success of the big businesses replicated, but he wants small and medium enterprise (SMEs) in his province to get into the game.

"The backbone of every economy is the SME sector. We want to tap their potential to improve our local economy," he says.

Dominguez accompanied the largest delegation of Mindanao businessmen to Indonesia last Sept. 21.

The group included the Labrador couple, whose Cassea's company produces herbal-based beauty products.

But Christian Widmann, project manager of the German Technical Cooperation, says that while the idea of SMEs being involved in the BIMP-Eaga effort was laudable, it was equally important to bring in more big players.

GTZ is an agency funded by the German government that provides technical support. It started providing technical assistance to the BIMP-Eaga concept in January 2005.

"I am not a big fan of say San Miguel, but we need to have somebody lead the efforts," Widmann says.

Widmann says although there have been previous talks between BIMP-Eaga players, much still needs to be done to ensure the success of the idea.

He says one of these was for the major players to have a roadmap or common goal and to find ways and means to achieve that goal.

"There should also be more commitment on the side of the governments involved," he says.

Widmann says the problem that GTZ sees now in the economic cooperation effort was that people making the decisions were not the ones actually implementing them.

"It should be localized," he says.

Dominguez could not agree more.

He says if the success of the economic cooperation was to be ensured, local government units should be more involved and committed to the success of BIMP-Eaga.

Defying gravity in restaurant industry

Three success lessons for a dining place

By Eduardo A. Morato Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

SOMETHING IS FISHY AT SOMEthin' Fishy. The Eastwood eatery is defying the law of gravity in the restaurant industry. What goes up, refuses to come down. A lesson or two in the food business can be drawn from this popular dining destination.

Prior to Eastwood City's opening in 2001, a few bars and restaurants were already attracting crowds to the Libis area and C-5. Megaworld lured customers to its new urban development center with several enticements like free parking, entertainment events, varied food offerings, and a captive community of residential dwellers and office workers. Eastwood boomed as the latest "in place."

Four years down the road, the Eastwood luster began to fade as competition in neighboring destinations attracted the fickle consumers. The Promenade in Greenhills, Tiendesitas, Metro Walk, SM Hypermart and Fort Bonifacio enticed segments of the Eastwood market with their differentiated appeal. It did not help that parking lots gave way to the construction of new condominiums at Eastwood. Parking fees were charged. Marketing events declined somewhat. Traffic worsened at C-5, demotivating diners. Beer prices were set at a minimum of P45 per bottle. All this reduced the customer count.

Somethin' Fishy had to find new bait for fishing. One Eastwood opportunity presented itself. The call centers located in the area provided customers with strange working hours and even stranger eating habits. The restaurant opened its doors to tired and hungry night jobbers. It offered eat-all-you-can breakfast buffets from five to ten in the morning for only P80. What Somethin' Fishy lost in price, it recovered in volume. Later on, the restaurant extended this offering from midnight to 10 a.m. A new "school of fish" bit at the bait. These were "after gimmick" diners gulping food after their bar hoppings or merry makings. Long queues of off-beat but value-seeking customers stormed the off-tangent restaurant operating at ungodly hours. Somethin' Fishy found the formula for defying gravity.

Of the 40 or 50 casual dining and fastfood restaurants at Eastwood, some 10 to 15 have closed down. However, there is hope for Eastwood locators. A mall is rising inside the complex. More call centers are coming in. Condominiums are being built. This means more captive markets. To the patient and persevering will belong the restaurant spoils. Meanwhile, Somethin' Fishy is plotting strategies for its lost lunch and dinner markets. It has come up with Filipino "hunger buster platters" and a "swordfish festival at 50 percent off. Combo meals for four persons, with seven to eight viands, are priced between P499 and P769. Bento plates at P150 for lunch and larger servings at dinner for P275 round up their price assault.

An interview with Jom Policarpio, manager of Somethin'

DEFYING/ B2-5

WHAT Somethin' Fishy lost in price, it recovered in volume.

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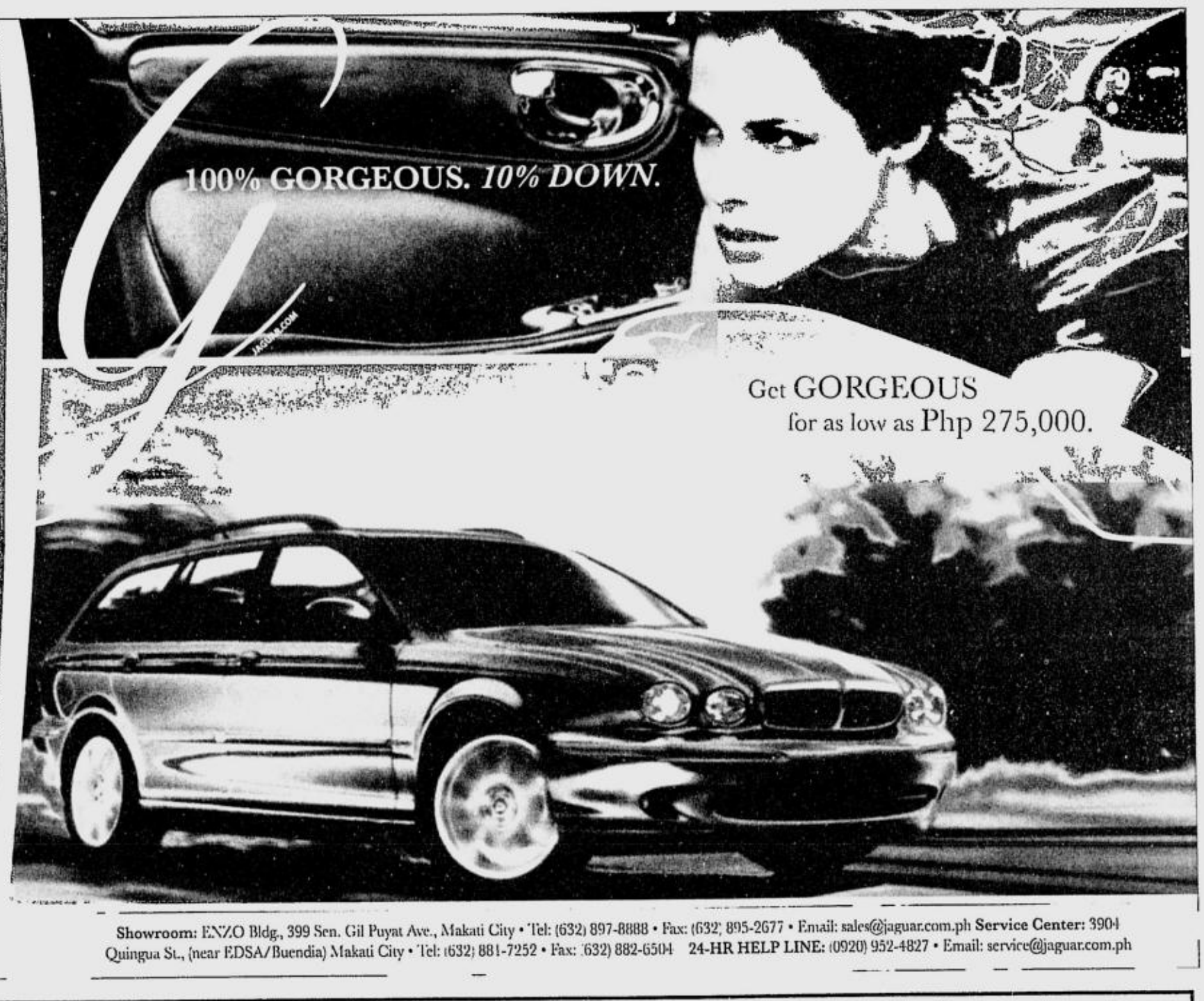

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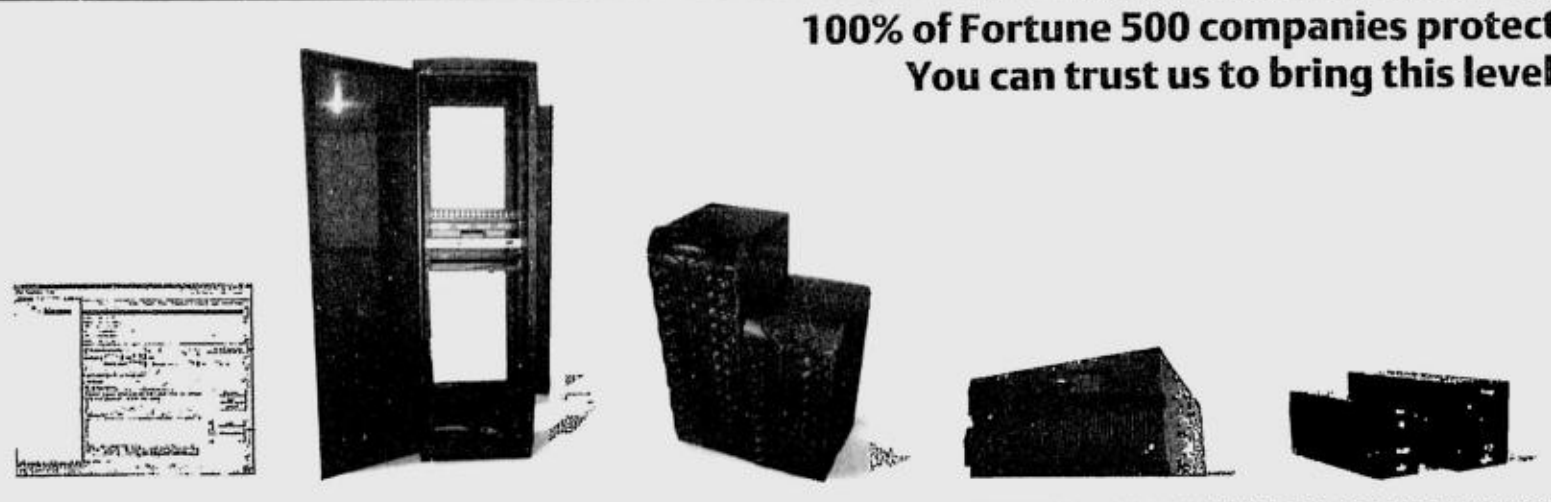

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'Look at opportunities in infrastructure programs'

Tessie Sy urges businessmen to look beyond the obstacles and invest in RP

IT IS REMARKABLE THAT WE are able to gather today to discuss about future plans. More than a year ago, many of us would have been cynical and skeptical. If you recall at that time, our country was gripped by major crises and government finances were so precarious. Major ratings agencies had downgraded the Philippines' sovereign debt. Total debt was rising and borrowing costs were soaring. Our country was facing severe political tests—impeachment, rumored coups and conspiracies. Our peso was weakening and stock market was in doldrums. There was a palpable sense of despair and helplessness.

Remarkably, we as a nation seem to have wisely stepped up. In 2004, President Gloria Arroyo pointed the need to address fiscal crises as the immediate call, and the problem of public debt and deficit has been slowly receding, ever since. The government took drastic fiscal measures to rein in spending and pass significant revenue programs, the most notable being the Revised VAT. Now, the government is well poised to achieve its objective of balancing its budget by 2008; total public debt has fallen relative to GDP, and the share of debt service in public spending has been gradually reduced.

The BSP reportedly expects a formal credit upgrade in the coming months, while the stock market index has testing all time highs. Our peso, too, appreciated by ten percent, so fast to the extent that our next problem may now be how not to unduly penalize our exporters. Moreover, the price of oil is slowly coming down, the investors' confidence has gradually returned and the inflow of foreign exchange from OFW has steadily increased.

Nowadays, Filipinos have shown a maturity to temper their response to political events. Regardless of their partisan views, they have mostly rejected violence and extra constitutional means to attain political ends. Our president, Mrs. Gloria Arroyo, has thus far identified the most crucial economic agenda for the country and pursued it single-mindedly. Though not everyone will agree with the details, not one will dispute the fact that the administration has avoided a financial crisis, stabilized the economy and improved the investors' confidence by instituting fiscal reforms. It instituted these reforms in the midst of grave political challenge.

SY

Recently, President Arroyo emphasized the need for catching up on the infrastructures program. After last week's typhoon, I think we all realized the consequence of infrastructures' breakdown, and were confronted by the fragility of the country's infrastructures in the havoc wrought by Typhoon "Milenyo." Well, power supply, telecommunication, the information network, the transport system, potable water were all affected. These, along with irrigation and sewerage are all vital to the continuing growth of commerce and industries, as well as improving our lives. Creating, expanding and ensuring a high quality of such facilities is logically the priority, if the country is to achieve higher growth. Infrastructure, as we all know, is an indispensable minimum.

During her last State of the Nation Address, the President outlined the infrastructures for the super regions to cater to specific economic activities. These projects, I understand, will not be undertaken by the national government alone, but in cooperation with the private sector and local government. The private sector can be enticed to invest, if a fair return is possible.

We see viable examples of this in telecommunications, urban

LOOK/ B2-5

Country above self

From page B2-2

importantly, what can we do to avert this trend—to send the world the signal that "the Philippines is here and, yes, we are open for your business?"

Make no mistake: the forces of globalization—the faster movement of manufactured goods, services, ideas and capital—demand a pro-active and aggressive response. Our failure to acknowledge and act on its inevitability will leave our nation behind, or even worse, consign it to irrelevance.

Therefore maintaining our competitiveness—our edge, as it were—is not simply the theme of this year's MAP CEO Conference but the challenge of our times. If we do not at least sow the seeds that shall ensure our competitiveness in the years ahead, future generations of Filipinos will look upon us with great recrimination and regret.

Of course, as many of you are aware, much of the country's business environment is determined by our elected representatives and our laws—things that, as businesspersons, we have very little direct control over.

That said, perhaps it is time for us businesspersons to take a more pro-active role in helping elect the right people into public office. If our political environment is perceived as unstable or unfriendly to business, much of our microeconomic efforts will not bear fruit. It is necessary that the public and private sectors work in tandem and cooperate effectively because it is only through our combined efforts that our country will move out of its undeserved bottom place.

In fact, there are good signs that our economy is improving. Inflation has been declining and that economic growth has been resilient. Net foreign portfolio investments and OFW remittances have enabled the peso to appreciate by 6.1 percent against the US dollar thus far this year.

Furthermore, corporate profits grew exceptionally in the first half of the year and the national government has been successful in keeping its finances under control. All of these developments have led investment banks such as Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers to express confidence that the Philippines is on the right track.

Indeed, there is no doubt in my mind that the Philippines can excel and lead on a global stage.

For instance, Filipino telecommunications firms are regarded with great respect around the world for the way that they have advanced the business model for mobile communications through their innovations in pre-paid credits and mobile e-commerce.

Moreover, the overseas Filipino worker is considered among the hardest-working and most competent in the world. Our nurses, teachers, seafarers and other professionals are on demand in the international markets. But to sustain this demand requires that we keep our reputation as a dependable and credible supplier of world class talents. We should condemn those who seek short-term gains at the expense of our country's reputation.

Interestingly, while we do not consider them as overseas workers, men like Manny Pangilinan, Manny Pacquiao and Efren "Bata" Reyes, to name a few of our more famous fellow Filipinos, earn much of their income from overseas sources. They bring credit to our nation as world-class talents and their successes in various fields provide strong examples for future generations of Filipinos to emulate.

It is our hope that the business cases and lessons presented here today will buttress and bring your knowledge of management practice to the global level so that you can use these, with great success, in your respective organizations and answer the challenge of our times.

I wish to leave you with a brief story.

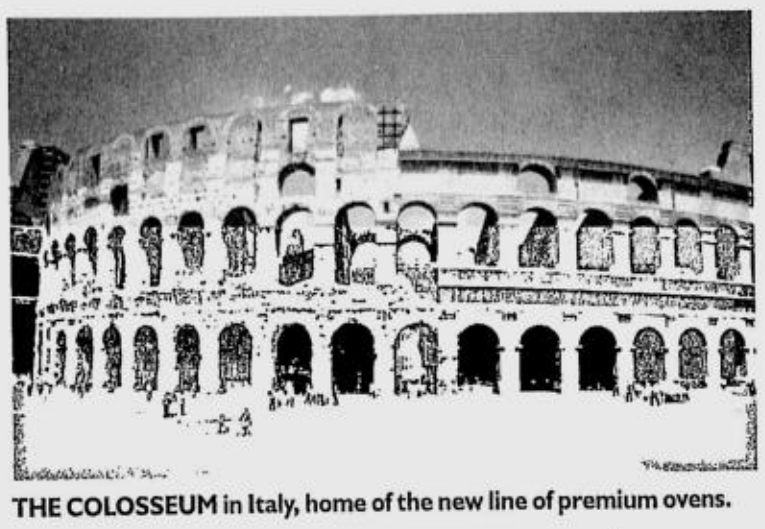
Recently, some Filipinos undertook to climb Mt. Everest and naturally, their success has generated great interest in the history of the Everest Expeditions. Certainly, anyone with even a passing knowledge of the Everest Expeditions is now familiar with the names of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, the two men who reached the summit first.

However, fewer people can probably name the leader of the successful expedition of 1953.

His name was Col. John Hunt. It was his meticulous planning, together with the generous team spirit that he fostered throughout the expedition that enabled Hillary and Norgay to reach the summit. Many prior expeditions had failed up to that point because lesser men chose personal glory rather than the common good.

The same is true in the world of business. MAP's theme "Country Above Self" is the only mindset that will enable our country to achieve and sustain global competitiveness that will bring prosperity to those who participate in the production of wealth.

(Speech delivered during the 5th MAP International CEO Conference on Oct. 11, 2006. The author is president of the Management Association of the Philippines and eBusiness Services Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



THE COLOSSEUM in Italy, home of the new line of premium ovens.

Tecnogas makes a comeback, goes for the premium market

AFTER A FEW YEARS OF silence, the known kitchen brand new Tecnogas returns to the country.

Tecnogas is adopting a new look, a more advanced technological platform and a determination to conquer the homes of the premium market.

Unlike its forerunner, which was manufactured in the Philippines, the new Tecnogas is 100 percent made and imported from Italy. Under the control of Tecnogas Italy which belongs to the Antioni Merlioni Group of Companies that acquired the brand, the design of new Tecnogas has been significantly enhanced and its product features perfected.

Following the tradition of Italian quality, technology and durability, the new Tecnogas showcases technological design control and attention to safety and quality.

Every Tecnogas product is modular in nature to accommodate design variations without compromising international safety standards.

Tecnogas uses AA (anti-acid enamel) which prevents oven corrosion and the inclusion of a new fan-cooling system prevents the oven from over heating. The new Tecnogas also features a multi-function convection oven for fast baking setting and a safety device that will automatically shut-off the unit once the LPG leaks by blocking the gas tubing connection in case of gas leakage. The new Tecnogas also comes with an analogic timer which automatically shuts off the unit after its usage whether cooking or baking.

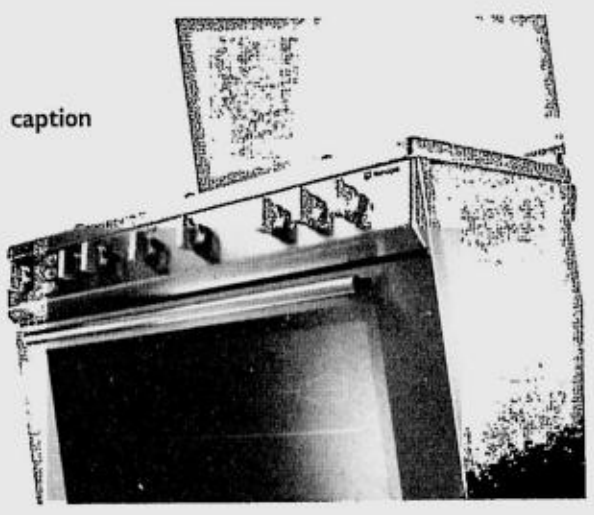
Tecnogas standard features include Natural Gas nozzles that produce a 100-percent blue flame which in turn minimizes the flow of gas, an 18/10 aesthetic stainless steal with 100 percent rust proofing and topping every model with Sabaf aluminum burners, the No. 1 brand of burners in the world.

With its features and the Italian brand name, the new Tecnogas is now positioned as a premium product that aims to serve the upper B to A markets. By positioning the product in the premium segment, the company expects to also tap the broad C market which aspires to have the best in life.

In a study made by Roper in 2004, the Philippines ranked one of the highest among Asian countries in terms of aspiration. That's why Tecnogas is confident with its new position.

Facing the challenge of distributing the repositioned brand made popular in the 80's by the "bumbling bombshells"—naïve but good hearted stars of the then popular sitcom Chick to Chick, the exclusive distributorship of Tecnogas was officially awarded to Allied Distribution in November 2005.

Allied Distribution, a company that has been in the distribution of consumer electronics products for the last five years and has built a stable and extensive dealer network around the country, is now in the process of differentiating and selecting dealers that can make new Tecnogas break into the premium market. The plan is to slowly grow the brand and corner a 25-percent share of the total premium market for burners and ranges in 2007.



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Dropout raises hogs, earns big bucks, shares secrets

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BINALONAN, PANGASINAN—Some children here who are unable to finish their schooling are encouraged by their parents to just raise hogs to have a source of income.

A Chinese-Filipino from Bulacan, who dropped out of high school because of poverty, raises piglets and now owns one of the biggest hog farms in Northern Luzon.

Danilo Uy, a Pangasinan board member, says he dropped out of Far Eastern University after two years when he was only 14. At 15, he was already working as a salesman of a commodity company in Manila.

"I learned to drive when I was 18, so I became the driver, salesman and delivery boy of the company I worked for. I was on deck to become the sales manager," Uy says.

But it was found out that he was a high school dropout. Thus, while he was doing well as a salesman, he was taken out of the race.

Chicharon

"I resigned after that and put up a small chicharon (kropeck) factory in Malabon. My father Kiana Uy, one of the early Chinese who migrated to the Philippines, and the other family members were in charge of the production while I sold the product in the Ilocos region and Baguio City," he says.

The business was good in Baguio and Uy stayed there most of the time until he met Myrna, also a Chinese-Filipino, and they got married in 1970.

Eight years later, Uy decided to put up a chicharon business in a rented 5,000-ha lot in Barangay Bugayong in Binalonan town.

His wife Myrna operated a canteen in Baguio to augment the income derived from the chicharon business.

As the business was doing well, a problem emerged: The neighbors complained about the smell of rotting waste products from the chicharon factory.

DANILO Uy with son, Dr. Ronald Uy RAY B. ZAMBRANO/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

"I told them the waste products would make good food for hogs, which many raised in their backyards. That solved the problem as the neighbors took turns getting the waste products. But another problem cropped up: The neighbors quarreled among themselves about the waste materials, two of whom stabbed each other," he says.

Going into

Uy decided to buy 10 piglets to consume the waste products. Then he bought 20 more, then a 100.

As the number of the pigs increased, he went to Baguio City to collect waste foods from his wife's canteen.

He also collected "kaning baboy" from other canteens in the city to feed to the pigs. "I'm able to save up on feeds," he says.

Uy has several hog breeders and eventually, his hog raising business grew to such proportions that today, several buildings house the more than 1,000 breeders in a bio-secure area in the village.

It is also one of the most modern commercial hog farms in the country, with automatic feeders, a health program and a tight biosecurity to prevent bacteria and viruses from wreaking havoc on the farm.

The farm has become a family corporation.

A veterinarian son, Donald, manages the farm. Another son Dennis, mans the office. Daniel is in charge of marketing ingredients of feeds. His other son, Darwin, works as a resident doctor at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

Most of the farm's workers live inside the compound with their families. They are provided with free housing and food.

Pollution control

The farm's wastes are collected in six ponds and used to fertilize the corn fields. "The manure is applied on the field, killing the weeds there, after which the land is plowed," Uy says.

Some 120-200 tons of corn are harvested from the corn fields, and the harvest is processed into hog feeds.

"We are not high-tech yet when it comes to corn production. But we intend to hire an agriculturist," he says.

His father Kiana, now 87, also maintains a vegetable garden from which the family harvests vegetables for their meals.

Many people as far as Baguio City come to the farm to ask for the farm wastes to use as fertilizer, he says.

Uy, president of the Northern Luzon Hog Raisers Cooperative, adopted Sen. Manuel Villar's secret to success: Hard work and perseverance.

Another tip he readily shares is: When one puts up a business, the owner should not depend on it for the daily expenses, especially during the business' early days.

"In my case, there was the kropeck factory and my wife's canteen from which we derived the family's expenses. Others may try to find employment until the income from the business is stable enough to support the family," he says.

Other advice he shares is: Do not spend more than you earn. Discipline yourself. Do not gamble.

He narrates a story of a couple who had a booming piggery business until the husband got hooked on gambling. The business collapsed.

Uy's kropeck factory closed in 1983 when fire struck it.

By then, the 10-piglet backyard piggery meant to consume the waste products of a backyard factory had grown into the biggest hog farm in Northern Luzon and was big enough to support the family.

It was also big enough to support the couple's scholarship program which has seen at least 60 students through college. Two of these scholars are doctors while others are nurses, engineers and teachers.

Helping coffee farmers for 20 years

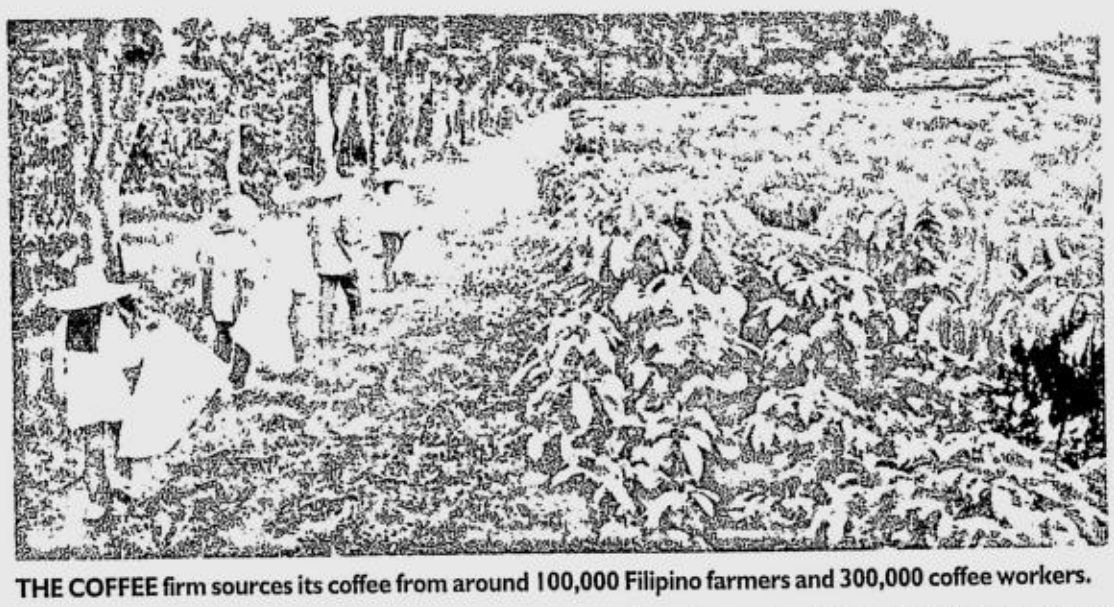
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE Nestlé Satellite Buying Stations in 1986 has benefited the Filipino coffee farmers.

Set up in key coffee-producing areas around the Philippines, these buying stations give them the opportunity to sell their crops at prevailing world market prices as well as provide them an easier access to Nestlé, the country's leading procurer of coffee.

Nescafe, Nestlé's coffee brand, sources its coffee from around 100,000 Filipino farmers and 300,000 coffee workers.

The establishment of the Nestlé Satellite Buying Stations is in line with the company's corporate business principle of obtaining raw materials directly from its source—a practice that proves beneficial to coffee farmers, the coffee farming industry and Nestlé.

Aside from providing coffee farmers the opportunity to sell their crops at prevailing world market prices, this direct procurement policy gives them the chance to be aware of the strict quality and safety requirements of Nestlé. These then encourage them to achieve or maintain high quality crop standards.



THE COFFEE firm sources its coffee from around 100,000 Filipino farmers and 300,000 coffee workers.

Being in close contact with Nestlé also allows them to benefit from the company's know-how in coffee planting and crop management.

In fact, the company established the Nestlé Experimental and Demonstration Farm (NEDF) in Davao to specifically address the need to train farmers on the proper way of growing coffee and provide them with high-yielding coffee planting materials. It currently provides 80 percent of all Robusta cuttings in the Philippines.

For Nestlé, meanwhile, this direct procurement policy gives them the the opportunity to obtain coffee beans that meet its stringent quality and safety specifications as well as be in touch with the needs and concerns of the Filipino coffee farmers.

The success of the first Nestlé Satellite Buying Station in Davao in 1986 was followed by the establishment of other stations in other key coffee-producing cities and provinces in the country.

There are currently 13 satellite buying stations in the country. These include the ones in Iloilo, Isabela, Zamboanga, Cotabato, Agusan del Sur, Palawan, Tuguegarao, Solano, Bacolod, Bohol, Calamba and Cavite.

The Nestlé Satellite Buying Stations is just one of the many programs Nescafe initiated to support Filipino coffee farmers' yield and income. It believes that helping improve their coffee farming methods and boosting their profits will result in an increase and better supply of coffee in the country.

'Look opportunities ...

From page B2-4

water supply and toll highways. It would be good if the local government would expend most of the taxes on infrastructure to be used primarily by its constituents. It would also be good if the national and local government heed the need of private sectors for clear and consistent rules regarding infrastructure projects. If one looks back, some of the bad experiences of private sectors in infrastructure projects have stemmed either from lack of prioritizing by the government, or lack of clear rules. Sometimes, the government goes back on its plan or changes specifications. In some cases, different parts or branches of government do not see eye to eye and give conflicting signals about particular investments; while in others, political considerations and affiliations are allowed to distort infrastructures' priorities.

Now, President Arroyo focuses on the infrastructures' backlog as the immediate task this time. This urgent task must be accomplished if national prosperity is to be pursued. We need not always agree on details, but as long as we are broadminded enough to consider good ideas from wherever they originate, we can transcend our larger division, work together with each other, and be able to achieve national growth and fair returns for the private sectors.

To my colleagues in the business industry, look at the business opportunities of these infrastructure programs, or the opportunities resulting from them. Look at what our country can offer. Surely there are pros and cons, a lot of critics and problems as usual, road blocks and humps along the way. But aren't we used to these in the Philippines' context and managed to survive? Many of us are still in the country today. The government sees the urgency of the infrastructures right now, and understands better than before, the immediate economic and social impact of these programs. So what better time than now to listen and look at these business opportunities?

(Opening remarks of SM Investments Inc. vice chair Teresita Sy at the Government Infrastructure Forum last Oct. 4)

Defying gravity in restaurant ...

From page B2-3

Fishy, yielded a demand estimate of P500 million for Eastwood restaurants in 2005. Eastwood has a large employee population of 13,221 from 197 companies. Twelve call centers provide the off-hour customers. There are 752 families living inside Eastwood. Some 7,962 middle to high income households in nearby subdivisions augment the market base. "Gimmickers" from Metro Manila's watering holes round up the customer profile. The future of Eastwood seems brighter than its immediate past.

The restaurant and bar industry is subject to the whims of a market always on the lookout for "something new." When customers leave a place, it is hard to get them back unless fresh excitements lure them anew. Rockwell was "in" for a while, only to give way to the rejuvenated Greenbelt complex which sucked in the crowd from the adjacent Fort as well. Greenbelt has become the diners' black hole. But then again, Greenbelt at Makati is not just the new "in place". What is going for it is Makati's large base of customers since the city is envied as the most densely populated office and residential center in the country. Makati was just waiting for Greenbelt to happen with a vengeance.

Lessons learned

So what are the lessons learned from the restaurant industry?

A large customer base is definitely a must.

More than that, there must be constant renewal and fresh excitement to entice the restless crowd. For budding commercial centers, avoid customer "demotivators" and "dissatisfiers" (e.g. parking difficulty, traffic), especially if the base load is still small.

Finally, look for unusual market segments (e.g.the off-beat customers) or market differentiators (e.g. fantastic customer offerings). Continuously reinvent and reposition the restaurant as often as necessary or as the wind shifts. The creative restaurant entrepreneur should wake up every morning to ask himself one question "how do I make myself obsolete today?"

Who is a leader?

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

YOU HAVE A DAILY INVITATION to greatness and, regardless of title or position, your potential to influence others is unlimited. Being reminded of this is sometimes the one thing it takes to regain focus on the importance of what we do each day. Mark Sanborn's (best-selling author of "The Fred Factor") newest book, "You Don't Need a Title to be a Leader," serves as such a reminder, inspiring you to reach your potential beyond title or position.

Please take a moment and enjoy a sample chapter of the book, which will be released later this month.

Who is a leader?
By Mark Sanborn

One day, my assistant informed me over the intercom, "There is a Cadet Green on line two. I think you'll want to talk to him."

That was my introduction to Cadet Shawn Green, US Air Force Academy.

The Air Force Academy had been in the papers a great deal lately for various challenges it was facing, and none of the recent news had been positive.

Shawn Green called me to tell me he had read my first book, "The Fred Factor." He believed the book offered a message that needed to be shared at the Academy. So he took the initiative to call me out of the blue to ask if I would be willing to come and speak. "I'm just a person who wants to make things better," he told me.

This exceptional individual was undaunted by the challenge of contacting people he didn't know who he thought could help. He couldn't afford to pay the people he was contacting to appear. In fact, he actually had to get official approval for us to appear for free. Cadet Green didn't have a title, but he was certainly a leader.

As a result of his bold request, both bestselling author Stephen Covey and I came to speak to the graduating class of freshman cadets. Meeting so many of the best of the best who were determined to serve their country was a memorable experience, one that I will not soon forget.

People who lead—whether or not they have a title—strive to make things better.

We all want to have an impact on the world around us. No one wants to be blown sideways in life by forces they can't control.

Part of growing up is figuring out how much influence we have over our environment, from parents to friends, from school to careers.

Our choices in life have a huge impact on the kind of education we get, the kinds of jobs we land, the relationships we develop and become involved in, and the quality of the lives we live. The desire to influence the world around us is what real leadership is all about.

Do you think you make a difference?

When you first look in the mirror in the morning, do you say to yourself, "Today, I'm going to change the world!"?

Probably not.

And yet we do change history every day, not just for ourselves but for our families, communities, employers, and country. Some of the ways we effect change are significant: landing a huge account, raising money for charity, helping to coach a youth soccer team. Others are small: letting someone merge ahead of us in traffic, taking an interest in a colleague who needs someone to listen. But none are trivial.

I'm not suggesting that simple acts of courtesy in and of themselves constitute acts of leadership. Yet leaders, untitled or otherwise, realize the extraordinary impact they can have on others and the world around them. They consciously choose to exercise their abilities, skills, and knowledge to help make a difference.

What is it you want?

Professor of sociology and speaker Tony Campolo claims that if you ask most parents what they want for their children, they will say they want their children to be happy.

Campolo goes on to say that he grew up in a home where his father didn't care if he was happy. You see, his father wanted more for his children than just to be happy. He wanted each of them to be good, to be an ethical person who makes a positive contribution. Sometimes that requires hard work and self sacrifice, putting another's needs ahead of your own. These are things that might not, in the short term, make us "happy." But they do help us to do good and make a difference. Being happy is enviable, but being good is truly admirable. It requires character, integrity, and perseverance.

Sometimes being "good" isn't aiming high enough. As Erwin McManus, the pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles, said, "We spend so much time worrying about our kids being good—not breaking the rules, getting into trouble, and basically behaving—that we often forget to invite them to be great."

In fact, I define true leadership as "an invitation to greatness that we extend to others." There is a catch, though. We can't give what we don't have. We can't extend an invitation we haven't already accepted.

At a recent convention, a member of the association sponsoring the event volunteered to work as backstage manager and assist with everything that happened behind the scenes at the general sessions. Because Rick was busy preparing between general sessions, he gave up the chance to attend most of the sessions during the conference. He didn't receive any payment, other than the appreciation of the association leaders, and he still paid a full registration fee for his attendance.

He was an example of one of the many who serve as untitled leaders, who handle the necessary but often unglamorous jobs that need to be done.

Volunteers for important or high-profile tasks are never in short supply. While I don't want to shortchange the importance of "the big show," I am even more impressed by the leaders who know what must be done behind the scenes to make the big show happen. They take on difficult and time-consuming assignments not because they want to be praised or noticed—just because those tasks have to be done. As a result, everyone benefits.

The reality is that we all work "backstage" in our lives at times. Real leaders bring the same commitment to excellence to whatever they do, whether on the stage or behind it.

Don't confuse leadership with fame

Recently, the Discovery Channel aired a four-part special on the top 100 greatest Americans. Matt Lauer hosted the show each week for one month; half a million nominations were gathered online. At the end, the top 25 Americans were announced. The results were what most people would call a mixed bag: Among those on the list were Abraham Lincoln and Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bill Clinton and Billy Graham, Thomas Jefferson and Tom Cruise, Walt Disney and John F. Kennedy, Dr. Phil and Michael Moore. The mixture of historically great leaders and entertainers like Michael Jackson and real estate mogul Donald Trump begs the question: What do we think "greatness" is?

In my opinion, fame is based on what we get in life, but true greatness is based on what we give in life. It is contribution through action.

Barbara Stammer

Barbara Stammer's career plans changed when she was 19 years old. At the time, she was attending college with the intention of becoming a schoolteacher. Then the guy she planned to marry broke off the engagement and she left college to pick up the pieces and "find herself."

"All my plans were down the tubes," Barbara recalls. "I remember thinking: What will I do with my life?"

As luck would have it, a budding restaurateur named Bobby Merritt was hiring. Only months earlier, he had been employed driving a bread truck. Then he had a bad accident that changed his life forever. "I was in and out of hospitals over the next few years and was left with a permanent disability," says Bobby.

While recovering and considering how to take care of his wife and three small children, he found a help-wanted ad in the local newspaper. A restaurant chain called Sonic was looking for a managing partner in Las Cruces, New Mexico. And that's how Bobby got started in the restaurant business.

Barbara was the first employee Bobby hired. He knew her mother, who ran a commissary at a military base, from his bread truck route and her mother's own attitude and loyalty had always impressed him. As he expected, these traits run in the family. Barbara's can-do attitude and enthusiasm quickly helped her to learn the Sonic business.

Merritt bought out his original partners and started expanding. In December, as he prepared to open up a new drive-in restaurant, he asked Barbara to help train the crew. It was the first time she had helped to train someone else. "Soon I was ordering equipment and uniforms and doing everything necessary to get ready for a new opening." She discovered that not only was she good at doing her job, she was good at teaching others, as well.

"Barb," Bobby remembers, "was high-energy. She always wanted to make whatever she did better."

With her strong work ethic and sense of integrity, Barbara treated the business as if it were her own. Her passion and sense of responsibility made her a stellar employee, and Bobby continued to increase her responsibilities.

Yet she didn't have a title. Nor did she have one for the next 15 or 20 years, until one day "Sonic Corporate said we had grown so much we needed an org chart," she said, laughing. "Bobby stopped by my office and asked me if I would like to be president. I said I would think about it. I never got back to him, but at the next company convention he announced that I had agreed to be president!"

Barbara Stammer helped Bobby Merritt build the largest Sonic franchise system in the United States, with 5,500 employees, 130-plus stores, $160 million in revenues, and some of the highest performance numbers in the business. And Barbara didn't need a title to do it (although she came to earn one in time).

Being a leader

Genuine leaders make things better not just for themselves but for others, whether or not their contribution results in financial reward or popular recognition. A few leaders achieve both fame and greatness, and we read about them in history books. But most of the people I think of as leaders are untitled people like Barbara Stammer: They achieve greatness by working quietly in their organizations and communities, in their own lives, and in helping those around them.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

Why can't I come home?

– Ninoy Aquino

Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Mitsubishi introduces all-new 2007 Strada 4x4

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES has launched the all-new Strada 4x4 pick up. This is already the 4th generation of the L200 series and Mitsubishi Motors is confident that with its new styling and outstanding performance it will again be a top choice in the 4x4 pick up segment. It can be recalled that the previous Strada model introduced in 1997 was the best selling 4x4 pick up for seven consecutive years.

The all new Strada has evolved not just as a pick up, but also as an alternate everyday workhorse vehicle which can be used for business, family and recreation. With this, Mitsubishi Motors gives it a fresh and exciting styling, superb running performance, best in class cabin roominess, a comfortable ride and SUV interior styling and trim.

The exterior styling of the all-new Strada is impressive and distinctly unique from other pick-ups in the market. It creates a dynamic, road-hugging stance underlined by its bulging fender flares accentuated by its rugged and commanding front design which is similar to the Pajero Evolution's design identity. The all-new Strada now measures 5000 x 1800 x 1780 (length x width x height in mm).

The all new Strada is equipped with the new 2.5 liter 4D56 Mitsubishi Direct Injection Diesel with Hyper Common Rail DOHC 16-valve Turbo Intercooled engine. Mitsubishi Motors has used the bore and stroke of the proven and reliable 4D56 engine and strengthened its internal components to withstand the additional power that results from the DOHC, 16-valve and Direct Injection Hyper Common Rail System. Maximum power output from this 2.5-liter engine is at 136PS@3,500 rpm and maximum torque is 314 N-m @ 2,000 rpm. The adoption of the DI-D Common Rail system enables the all-new Strada to deliver high output, flatter torque curve, low fuel consumption, clean emissions, and quiet operation. This new Direct Injection Diesel Common Rail engine is already Euro-2 compliant and is properly matched with the current diesel fuel in the country.

New engine, advanced transmission

In addition, this new engine is mated to either an advanced 5-speed transmission or to a 4-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission. Either transmission delivers driving power through the Easy Select 4WD system. This rally-proven four-wheel-drive system enables the driver to choose three drive modes namely "2H" for smooth, paved highways, "4H" for wet and slippery surfaces, "4LLc" for rough tracks and rock climbing. Users can also shift on the fly from "2H" to "4H" and back even while traveling at speeds up to 100 kph.

Suspension system of the all-new Strada has also been completely redesigned. The front suspension uses a double wishbone with coil spring lay-out which replaces the old torsion bar-type springs. This new type uses enhances driving comfort and stability even off the road. The rear lay-out uses an above-the-axle type thereby also producing the same benefit as the new front suspension.

The safety system of the all-new Strada has been greatly improved by using Mitsubishi's exclusive Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE) frame. The RISE frame incorporates front and rear crumple zones with reinforced beams to absorb collision force and direct it away from the vehicle's interior. Should the GLS' 245/70 R16 tires come close to the limit of traction during hard braking, the ABS with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution will function to prevent them from locking up and making the Strada still maneuverable. Dual SRS front airbags, anti-trapping power windows, and tailgate mounted third brake lamp are standard safety items on both Strada GLS and GLX.

During the presentation to the media, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines president and CEO Kengo Takase was quoted as saying, "The all new Strada is a significant addition to Mitsubishi Motors Philippines model line up. We are confident that the All New Strada will regain market leadership again in the 4x4 pick up segment."

The all-new Strada is now available at all Mitsubishi dealers nationwide and will be available in three variants, the standard GLX with manual transmission, and a high-grade GLS with both manual and automatic transmission options.

Colors available for the GLS and GLX models are Solid White, Cool Silver, Metallic Red, Dark Gray Mica, and Medium Blue Mica.

The 2007 Stradas comes with a 3-year warranty or 100,000 km, whichever comes first.

Jose Mari Chan sings for poor children

MASTER BALLADEER JOSE MARI Chan and multi-talented pop artist Jamie Rivera are lending their voice and music for the benefit of poverty-stricken children in a two-hour show dubbed as "Concert for a Cause."

Together, Joe Mari and Jamie will take centerstage of the Meralco Theater for the fund-raising concert on Oct. 21 that promises to be a night of magical and classical melodies. The two will serenade the audience will soulful ballads and inspiring pop music.

Joe Mari, the Filipino singer-songwriter who has gained global prominence with such hits as "Christmas in our Hearts" and "Beautiful Girl", is back doing his best-staging a concert for humanitarian purposes.

Jamie, one of the first Filipina to play Kim in Cameron Mackintosh's award winning musicale "Miss Saigon" and the voice behind the Jubilaeum 2000 song "Tell the World of His Love", is sharing her voice once more for the benefit of others.

Proceeds from this concert will benefit the Holy Trinity Home for Children, a charitable institution that helps children of marginalized families.

An industrialist and philanthropist, Joe Mari has previously held highly successful concerts here and abroad to help raise funds for charity programs and projects.

He has written and composed hundreds of songs since his first song "Afterglow" was aired in 1964.

Jamie, on the other hand, has one of the most lovely faces and voices in the music industry. In the early 1990s, this singer-composer performed in the United States to help raise funds for the victims of Mount Pinatubo.

Following the release of "Tell the World of His Love" in 2000, Jamie has focused on singing and creating music about love and Christian faith.

Odyssey Foundation Inc, the corporate social responsibility arm of food processing firm CDO-Foodsphere Inc, is organizing the concert to help provide shelter, education and health services to poor children under the care of the Holy Trinity Home.

Located in Barangay Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City, Holy Trinity Home is run by the Trinitarian Handmaids of the Divine Word whose great desire is to uplift the condition of children living in poverty.

The benefit show is sponsored by Unionbank, Oriental Assurance, Oriental Tin Cans, Leysam Commercial, Equitable-PCI Bank, Meralco, United Laboratories, Powersports, Del Monte Philippines and CDO-Foodsphere.

For ticket inquiries, call Tina at 294-0681 or 291-1599.

Mabuhay Tinapay goes to Dagupan

MABUHAY TINAPAY, THE SIGNATURE campaign of concerned Philippine flour millers and the US Wheat Associates aimed at getting Filipinos to eat more bread is going to be launched in Dagupan this month. It is intended to create awareness of the health and economic benefits of eating bread.

Launched earlier in Metro Manila, the Philippine wheat flour milling industry is at the forefront of Mabuhay Tinapay campaign to drum up interest in bread products and other wheat-based food in the country.

There are two flour millers associations in the country. The Philippine Association of Flour Millers (Pafmil) which was established in 1962, some four years after the first flour mill in the country-Republic Flour Mills, now known as RFM Corp-was put up.

Aside from RFM Corp, the other members of Pafmil are Wellington Flour Mills, Liberty Flour Mills, Universal Robina Corp, General Milling Corp, Philippine Flour Mills and Pilmico Foods Corp.

The other organization, the Chamber of Philippine Flour Millers (Champflour) was organized in the early 1990s. Its members are San Miguel Mills, Philippine Foremost Milling Corp, Morning Star Milling Corp and Delta Flour Mills.

Setting aside their stiff competition, local wheat flour millers have combined resources with US Wheat Associates, the marketing arm of American wheat farmers, in an effort to increase the Filipinos' appetite for pandesal, monay, loaf bread and other wheat flour-based delicacies.

The Mabuhay Tinapay campaign is a combined effort aimed at promoting the consumption of all kinds of bread among Filipinos for its health benefits and to encourage bakers and bakery owners to patronize locally milled flour.

Multi-purpose appeal

THE LOVELINESS AND VERSATILITY OF THE NEXUS Suite's elliptical design allows for its multi-purpose appeal, especially for couples on the run who share quality morning conversations in the bath space. The Nexus Suite is just one of the exceptional bathroom suites from Toto. See more of Toto's remarkable bathroom lines at "The Bath Space 2007". This private viewing of Toto's latest and most technically advanced bathroom suites and fixtures for 2007 is slated for Oct. 19 from 2 to 9 p.m. and Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Kamia 1 and 2, ground floor, Garden Wing, Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City. For more information and viewing schedules, call William Chan at 751-8686.

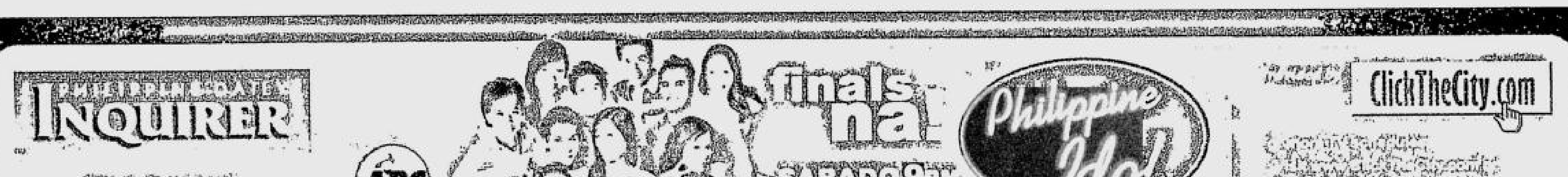
Valencia's 9th one-man exhibit

JUAN "MAGOO" Valencia, an officer of the Saturday Group who is now based in Carson City, California, is holding his 9th one-man exhibit titled "Valencia's Vistas" at Gallery 828 in Edsa Shangri-la until Oct. 20. His paintings, mostly in watercolor, have won more than a dozen art awards in the competitions sponsored by these groups, beating the works of veteran American artists. Magoo is an established and sought-after watercolor instructor in California. In addition, he is a part-time portrait and caricature artist at Disneyland and Disneyland California Adventure. His forthcoming exhibit will feature his prize-winning pieces along with California landscapes and still-life paintings.

Kenny Rogers Roasters promo

KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS, HOME OF DELICIOUSLY healthy meals, doubles the fun for the price one at snack time with its "Buy One Get One Free" promo. For every purchase of a featured food item of the day, dine-in guests can get a similar item for free six days a week. On Mondays, munch your favorite one-piece Krispy Chicken and Spaghetti. On Tuesdays, sink your teeth on tasty sandwiches such as Roast Chicken, Fried Chicken, Jumbo Chili Dog, Jumbo Hotdog, Chunky Tuna or Chunky Chicken. Wednesdays are salad days with Kenny Rogers' veritable array of Roast Chicken, Fruit and Vegetable and All Vegetable salads. Those with sweet tooth can splurge on desserts on Thursdays with Brownie ala Mode, Mais Con Hielo, Halo-Halo, Banana Split, Peach Melba or Sundae. It's a fries day on Fridays with French Fries, Cheesy Chili Fries and Chili Fries. Go pasta feasting on Saturdays with Tuna Pasta, Spaghetti, Bacon Macaroni and Cheese, and Chicken Macaroni Salad. Finally, further warm your sultry Sunday afternoons with Chicken Noodle Soup or Arroz Caldo. The Buy One Get One Free promo runs until Oct. 31, so visit the nearest Kenny Rogers outlet for a truly special snack time.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE Monday, October 16, 2006



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Mon Cole Knight	Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	TNA Wrestling		Big News
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		My Girl	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World
AXN		Trapped				30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Beastmaster (Season I)	
bTV				NBA Special: Greatest Moments		WNBA Finals: Sacramento @ Detroit G1			
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy/ Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends
Cinema One		Badjao				Got 2 Believe			
Cinemax				The Eddy Duchin Story		White Hunter, Black Heart			
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Masterminds
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series
ESPN		Pro Billiards '06		UEFA Champions League Magazine Show	X Games 11 Classic: Slammed/Stomped	Pro Billiards '06		NFL Football Raiders @ Broncos	
ETC	Friends	Beauty And The Geek		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil	
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends	
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panbabago (3:45 PM)		Sayuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras	
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters	
HBO		The Big Preview: World Trade Center (3:15 PM)	Suburbia (3:45 PM)				Falling In Love (5:45 PM)		
Hero TV	Rune Soldier	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen	
JackTV		Bottomline		Afterburn		Cinema Tech	Evolver	Beat The Geeks	Street Smarts
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Embellish This	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian
MTV Philippines		MTV Hits	8th & Ocean		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	MTV Hits		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens			
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas-...			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron
PBO			Dalawa Sa Ilalim Ng Pangarap				Hacienda		
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress
SBN 21								Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						WNCAA		Billiards WC Pool	
Star Movies				Black Cloud			The Ladykillers (6:45 PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy

Channel	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Global Shockers		Totoo TV		Philippine Idol	Sentro	The Apprentice		Araw-Araw Premyo Sa Rasibo	Lefty La Mas Fair
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Real Pinoy Fighter	Mirada De Mujer
AXN	Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The Ultimate Fighter (Season II)		The Amazing Race (Season X)		House (Season II)		Nip/Tuck	
bTV	RTV U 2006 NCAA Tour Final Four				NBA Access	NBA Preseason: Suns @ Lakers				
Cartoon Network	Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One	Minsan Ko Lang Sasabihin				Agila				Tagos Ng Dugo	
Cinemax	Evil Has A Face			Exorcist II The Heretic				Firefox		
CNN	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Living Golf/ Revealed Main Sail Art of Life		Your World Today	
Crime/Suspense	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law Firm		Prison Break		Treasure Hunters	
Disney Channel	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High/ Atlantis The Lost Empire	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies/ Inspector Gadget	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN					Sportscenter Asia	MLB Camp Series Game4				
ETC	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 5		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue	NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Sunday Night Live With Fr Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	The Catholic Church Through The Ages	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News					Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Judging Amy		Ordinary Miracles			
HBO		Steel			The Island				The Manchurian Candidate (11:15 PM)	
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	B-Daman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Ganbaruger	Rune Soldier	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13	Japan Video Topics/ Arris		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arris	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Jack Yard	Jack's Booth				The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Intimate Portrait	E! Extra: 101 Craziest TV Moments			Martha		Isaac		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Get Spotted	Making the Vid: Mariah Say Something	TRL		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	Evanescence Makes a Vid: Call Me	Jams	VH1 All Access: Celebrity Secrets Revealed	
MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX Top Picks		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		The Living Edens		Wild Sex	
NBN	Kapihan Ng Bayan			Tinig ng Bayan (Live)	Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO		Ikaw Naman Ang Iyak				Koka				Utol
Qtv	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		H3O Ha Ha Ha...Over!		News On Q	Sapulso		Irene
RPN 9	Scare Tactics	GBB	Movie Monday				Newswatch Now	Go Negosyo		Kapihan
SBN 21			Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports	Sagupaan		Spanish League				Sportsdesk			
Star Movies		Catch That Kid (7:25 PM)			Coyote Ugly			The Arrangement		
Star World	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear	Becker	For Better Or Worse		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race	Lost (8:15 PM)		Alias		News Central	Wickedly Perfect		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BUSINESS Monday

Loan of corporate funds

FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, A CORPORATION maintains in its bank account only the money it needs to meet its usual operational requirements, plus a buffer for unexpected expenses.

The prudent financial manager will not make funds placements that give minimal interest or yield.

Today's financial market has a wide variety of securities, bonds and other instruments that offer respectable returns on investment depending on the investor's preferences.

As a rule, corporations are free to handle their funds whichever way they want as long as they do not violate their charter and renege on their credit obligations.

Indeed, it makes good business sense for a company to invest its idle cash in instruments owned or managed by reputable financial institutions.

But what if the corporation opts to lend its spare money to private persons or companies that, in its judgment, enjoy good credit standing?

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

Is this deviation from the traditional investment norm reason enough for the stockholders to complain and demand that the loans be withdrawn?

Not really, said the Securities and Exchange Commission when its opinion on this matter was sought by a concerned stockholder.

Restrictions

The SEC stated that in corporations other than those engaged in the business of extending credit facilities, that lending activity calls for a close review of the business and purpose for which the corporation was organized.

If there are no restrictions in its articles of incorporation or by-laws, a corporation can put its idle funds to good use by lending or investing them, instead of leaving them unproductive.

It's important though that these funds be presently unutilized by the company and the lending is temporary in nature, not something done on a regular basis.

In extending loans, however, the corporation "should observe whatever provisions or limitations there may be in regard to the security to be taken, or the parties to whom the loan may be made."

Thus, the party to whom the money is lent should put up sufficient collateral for the loan or has the capacity to return or pay the loan at its maturity date.

While the SEC has adopted a liberal attitude on this matter, it is wary about the lending activity being used as a scheme to prejudice creditors or that it may result in the infringement of the "trust fund" doctrine.

Trust fund

The doctrine states that the assets of a corporation should be held and preserved by the corporation in trust for or to satisfy the valid claims of its creditors.

Any act of the corporation that tends to or causes the dissipation of its monetary and physical assets to the prejudice of its creditors is taboo.

The directors or officers of the corporation who may have had a hand in the squandering of the assets could find themselves in serious financial trouble in terms of fines and damages.

But it is not enough that the criteria enumerated above be met by a corporation that wants to lend its extra cash to third parties.

The SEC stressed that the corporation has to comply strictly with Section 42 of the Corporation Code before it undertakes that lending activity.

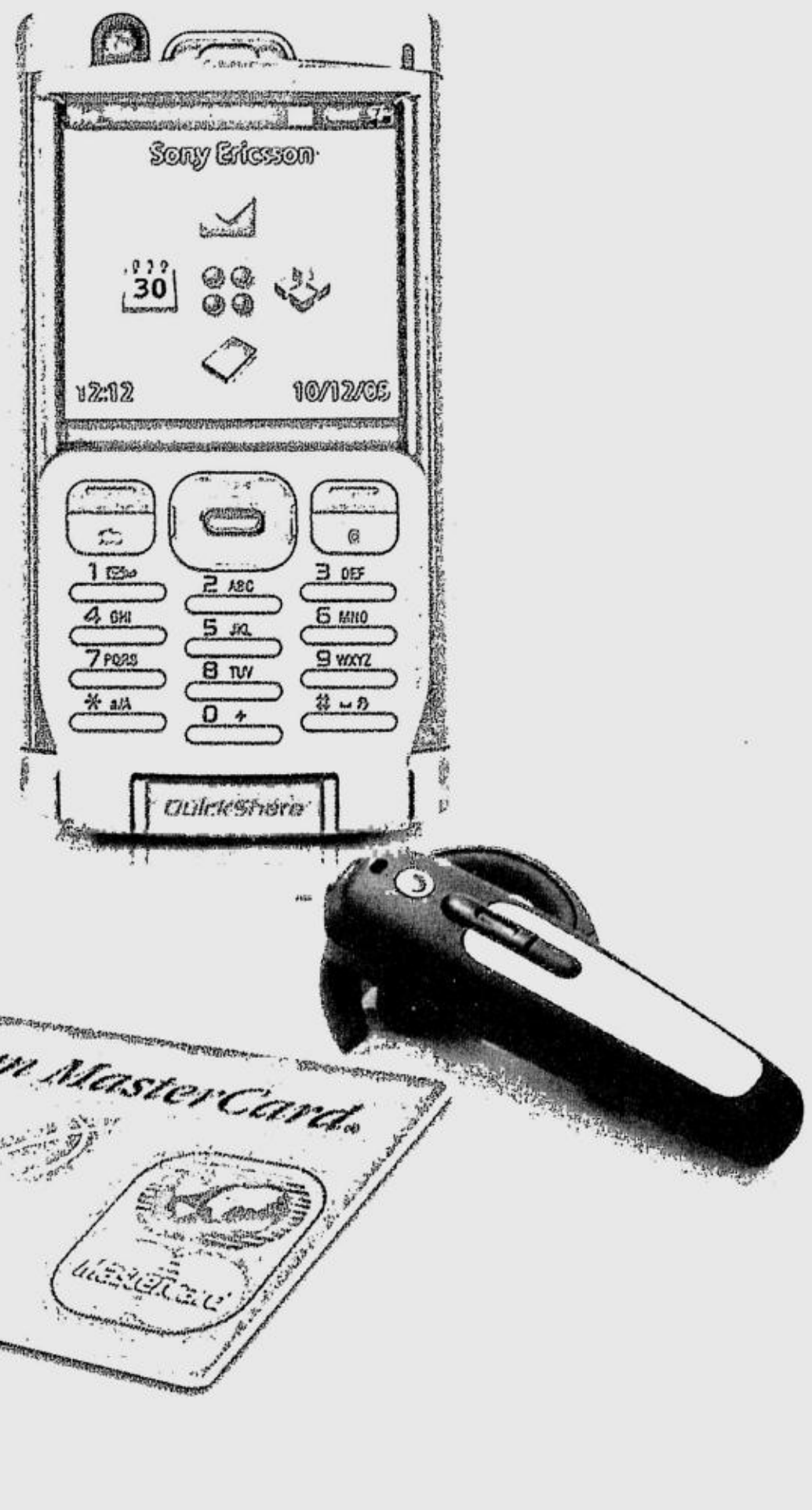
This means, a majority of the board of directors and the stockholders who represent two-thirds of the outstanding capital stock should give their consent to that action.

What's more, the stockholders' blessings must be given in a meeting where the proposed lending is clearly indicated in the agenda as an item for discussion and decision.

Why the strict rules? Because the subject lending activity is not considered an integral part of a corporation's business and the creditors' interests may, in the process, be adversely affected.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>.)

Sony Ericsson



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The Power of 3G

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4499. Series of 2006.

Ex-singer wins million miles

HER WINNINGS ARE ENOUGH TO TAKE HER to the moon and back twice, but this 32-year-old Filipina is bent on keeping her feet on the ground—literally.

Teresa Molina clinched one million free travel Miles on Philippine Airlines (PAL) after applying for a Mabuhay Miles Visa credit card and racking up entries to win the grand prize in the One Million Miles raffle promo of HSBC, the world's local bank.

Teresa and her husband travel weekly between the Philippines and Japan to run a Japanese restaurant in Makati City and a Tapsilog restaurant in Tokyo. Should they decide to use their entire winnings, they will be able to travel to Japan for free weekly for the next six months.

MOLINA

Molina does not plan to use the free air miles for herself or her Japanese husband, a licensed pilot. "We'd rather that we give others the opportunity to see other places," says Teresa.

"We'll use some of the miles for the regular business trips of our staff to Japan," says Teresa. "We've just opened our Japanese restaurant here in Makati City two months ago and we're busy building it up."

At the Urameshiya Restaurant, Teresa relates how her good fortune could finally allow her parents and siblings to travel. The Molinas hail from Ilocos Sur, but has since moved to Las Piñas City. The fifth among eight children, Teresa has already promised to share some of her free travel Miles with family members who wish to visit their place in Japan. Since winning last June, Teresa says she has already given away at least 300,000 of the free Miles to friends and family who have learned of her luck.

Hers was the stereotypical story of a singer in a Manila KTV bar who met and fell in love with one of the customers, a Japanese businessman-pilot on a night out with his business partners. This was 12 years ago and Teresa has since become an able manager of her husband's restaurant and grocery businesses. She now speaks nearly fluent Nipponggo and entertains customers like a pro.

It was her husband Noriyuki who first learned about HSBC's One Million Miles raffle promo. They were at the airport arrival area when he saw the words "Sayang ang Miles!" emblazoned on a billboard.

When they opened a Japanese restaurant last January, they decided to get a credit card to make their food purchases hassle-free. "We're not fond of carrying cash around. It's not safe," Noriyuki says.

They chose the Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC where one mile is earned for every P45 charged to the credit card. It did not take long for the couple to rack up nearly 200,000 Miles.

"I was surprised by the news that I won. I have not even won in any simple raffle, much more this kind," says Teresa, who was in Tokyo when the bank called.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Jack Canfield** barnstorms Manila /E1
■ **Lea Salonga** performs in benefit concert /D1

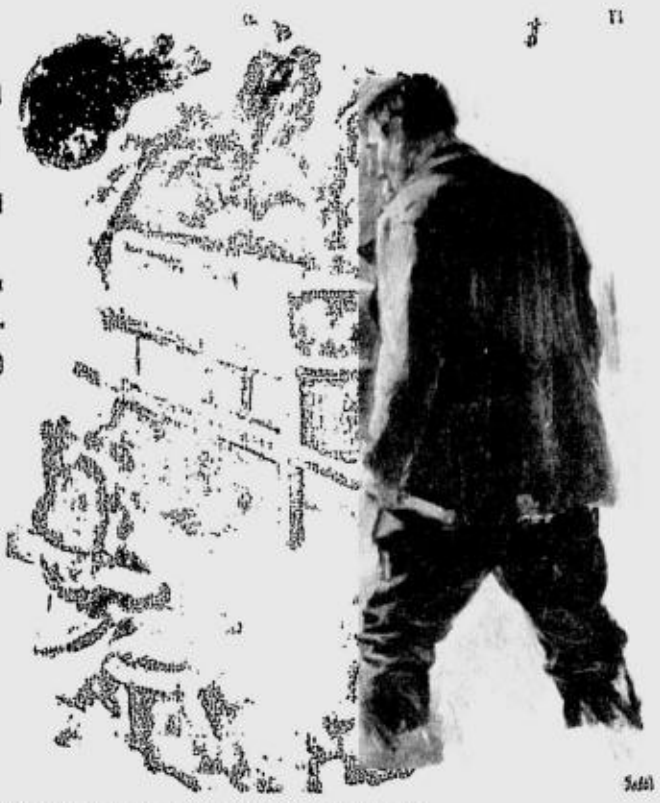
LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** *Subsection Editor* **Lito B. Zulueta**

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.c

Works of Philippine masters to be shown in San Francisco

" UNTITLED ((Landscape and Firetree)," by Fernando Amorsolo



"STUDY for Les Ignorés," by Juan Luna

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

BY THE 1960S, WITH THE rise of modern artists, Fernando Amorsolo (1892-1972) was considered outmoded and representing a traditional, conservative school of art. But even his critics agreed his genius lay in capturing the warm, tropical sunlight of the Philippine countryside.

Amorsolo was not forgotten. In fact, his works remain highly placed on the market to this day; and he became the country's first National Artist in 1972, the year of his death.

Fernando Zobel (1924-1984) learned to paint at the feet, so to speak, of Amorsolo, who was a friend of the family. But he later created paintings in a very different style. Zobel was said to have been hurt by criticism from some closed-minded Filipino circles that he (like his fellow countryman Juvenal Sanso) belonged to Spain, and not to the Philippines.

And so Zobel, perhaps piqued, went to his native Spain where he was acclaimed by critics for his "Oriental" touch. (Sanso, on the other hand, went to Paris but still visits the country from time to time.)

Juan Luna (1857-1899) was not as academic as his critics believed, or still believe. After winning those awards in Spain, he turned to Social Realism and Impressionism. Luna "antedated by almost 100 years the Social Realist movement that was to become popular in the Philippines, " says Florina Capistrano-Baker, director of the Ayala Museum in Makati City.

Some 30 works of these three Philippine masters—representing three important periods in Philippine art—will be displayed from Oct. 20 to Jan. 7, 2007, in San Francisco, USA. The exhibit is titled "Pioneers of Philippine Art."

The venue is the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco at 200 Larkin St. in that city (CA 94102).

In a recent press conference at the Ayala Museum to announce the event, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Ayala Corporation president, said "this is a great way to showcase our art to the Filipino-American as well as to the American communities residing there."

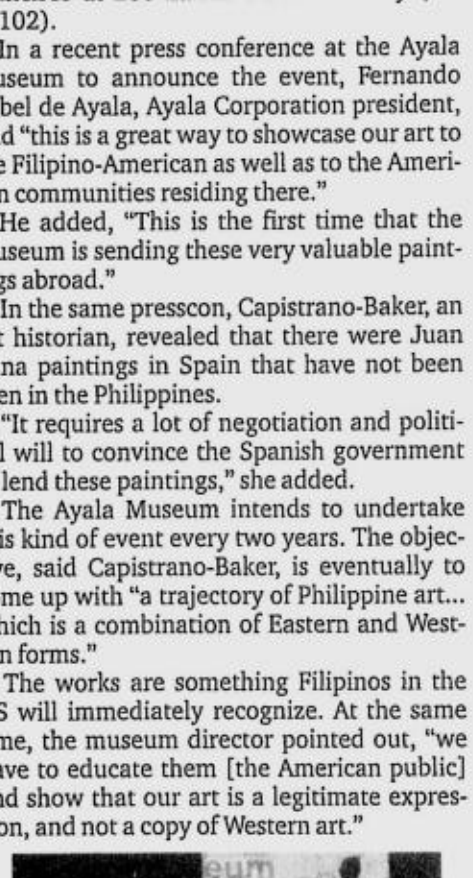
He added, "This is the first time that the museum is sending these very valuable paintings abroad."

In the same presscon, Capistrano-Baker, an art historian, revealed that there were Juan Luna paintings in Spain that have not been seen in the Philippines.

"It requires a lot of negotiation and political will to convince the Spanish government to lend these paintings," she added.

The Ayala Museum intends to undertake this kind of event every two years. The objective, said Capistrano-Baker, is eventually to come up with "a trajectory of Philippine art... which is a combination of Eastern and Western forms."

The works are something Filipinos in the US will immediately recognize. At the same time, the museum director pointed out, "we have to educate them [the American public] and show that our art is a legitimate expression, and not a copy of Western art."



"ORIENTAL Rug with Paul Haldemann," by Fernando Zobel

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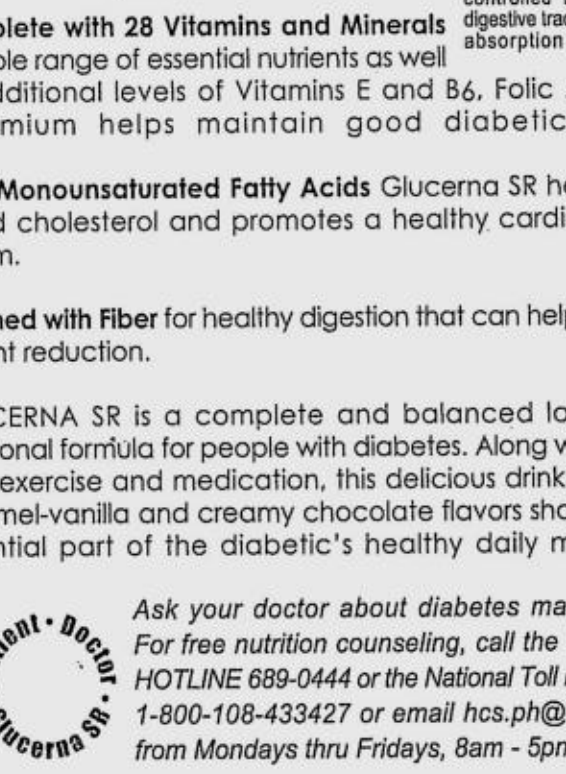

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The genes have it

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

IN A RARE DISPLAY OF FRAternal bonding, Roy Veneracion and his two sons, actor Ian and art student Mikhail, collaborate in a show to bring into sharp focus their unique artistic sensibilities.

Joined by an abstract expressionist style, the works of the father and sons are noted for their richly layered allegorical statements on the postmodern world as well as their socio-historic and philosophical tendencies that mix pop, avant-garde and neo-expressionist genres.

Veneracion himself has been a staunch abstractionist since his graduation from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, where he was a student of Dean Jose Joya, of the New York school of Abstract Expressionism.

Veneracion's work is characterized by a rich pictorial field that proffers a merry mix of images culled from history, religion and current affairs. The operative word in his art is the subconscious that spills into dreams, nightmares and traumas.

The current show at Mag:net Gallery (The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, until Oct. 31) has a suite of open-ended images where boundaries cease, and the nonlinear mode of narrative is broken down into visual fragments and puns culled from the pages of postmodern, postcolonial history.

True to form, the senior abstractionist unravels a rich lode of historical and cultural references that relate to contemporary events.

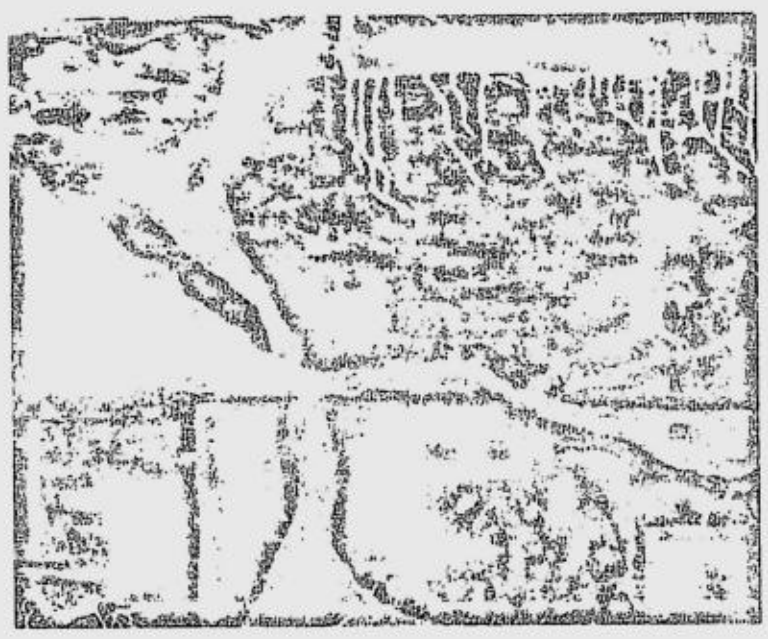
In "Logic of Nightmares," we see the central image of Superman in flight, surrounded by a host of familiar faces like those of the Native American, the Filipino revolutionaries, the Twin Towers, and the supreme terrorist, Osama Bin Laden, shown aloft in his winged horse.

"GABI ng Mga Bituin sa Munting Japan ni Vincent," by Roy Veneracion

All these may seem to be a series of disparate elements yet the logic of their collective presence seems inevitable if not unavoidable, given the recurring scenario of the last hundred years of American invasion.

Artistic torment

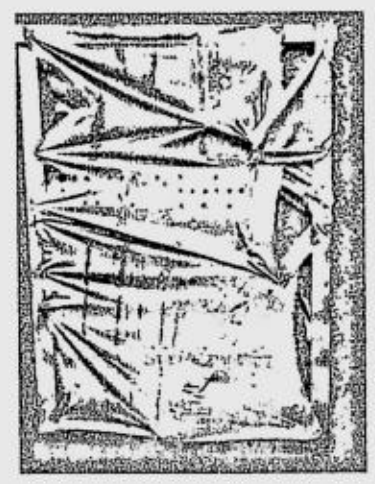
In another work, "Gabi ng Mga Bituin sa Munting Japan ni Vincent," we see the portrait of Vincent van Gogh, accented by a thick yellow line crisscrossing his image. To his left, we can see apocryphal images of a ghostlike form and smaller yellow-dotted circles in a vast field of blue. The allusion seems to strike deep into the state of mind of the tormented artist, of whom Van Gogh represents its apotheosis.

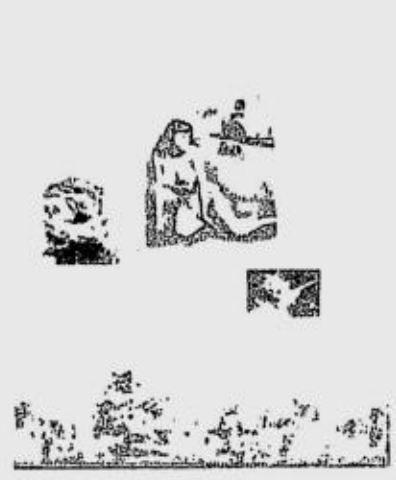


"CROSS Fire Hurricanes," by Ian Veneracion

THE VENERACIONS: Mikhail, Ian and their father, Roy (seated)

"PAINTING for the Blind," by Mikhail Veneracion (below left); and "The World Shudders as It Changes," by Roy Veneracion (below)





In "The World Shudders as It Changes," the faces of beauty and terror seem to be encroaching into each other: a girlie model in the center, a skull covered with *burka* to her left, and a photo of what looks like a ticking time bomb.

Roy's famous son, the movie actor Ian, works in the same mode of abstraction, but his imagery is spare, almost minimalist, compared to Roy's.

The palette is equally subdued, limiting itself to lavender and pale blue, highlighted by pink and red.

An amateur pilot, Ian revels in creating subliminal messages, as in "Cross Fire Hurricanes," a terrain altered by destructive winds and waters. In his other work, "Red Box and Auto-Writings," he seems to be telling a romantic story interrupted by a tragic turn of events.

Needing honing perhaps is the brushwork, which has yet to become more persuasive in creating essential textural effects. The impastos are visible, all right, but they need to have the all-essential impact and derring-do.

The childlike charm already visible in Ian's work, we hope, will evolve into a more cohesive sensibility.

Mikhail's oeuvre combines a variety of media and imagery with aesthetic boldness.

In "Painting for the Blind," he shows a canvas haphazardly stretched and painted to reveal Braille inscriptions. The artist seems to be saying that art must extend itself to include those who may not see but have the experiential ability to feel an artwork.

Mikhail's Pop-Art sensibility readily translates into a powerful bin of colonial traumas in "Mga Galos," with its quartet of poster-like images.

The Veneracions have proven in this show that there's more to art than artistic genes.

LEE de Leon

On the wings of photography

By Constantino C. Tejero

AN INTERESTING STUDY IN complementariness and contrast can be seen in the exhibit of the father-and-son tandem of photographers Lee and Jun de Leon.

These are images selected from their newly launched 107-page photography book, with the shots taken by the Sony Ericsson Cyber-shot phone, the K800i. This is reportedly the first time such a project was created with the exclusive use of a camera phone.

The exhibit takes the title of the book, "Tracing the Wind," until Oct. 22 on the 2/F of the Main Mall of the SM Mall of Asia.

Jun de Leon is already a noted photographer and his son Lee is an upcoming one showing much creativity. The duo flew to as far as Japan, Dubai, London and Los Angeles to capture their images.

The first thing that grabs the viewer's attention is the extraordinary look of these digital photos in terms of texture and the amount of color manipulation. But just as notable is the photographers' respective visual composition, distinct from each other, often clashing, sometimes merging.

Lee shows a dynamic sense of composition, which speaks of his youth. One can see it in his use of garish colors, repeat lines, busy patterns, unusual angles.

Take the iconic Big Ben, an ornery enough landmark of London that would hardly make a mark on the casual passerby. But the way Lee took the shot makes the image surprising: a frontal angle with the solid-brown structure against a light-blue sky and beams of flame-red, acid-green and yellow light radiating from the center toward the viewer's face.

Another surprising shot is of a door in Dubai. It is just an old black-brown door cleaved between green-blue-brown blocks of stone that Lee has shot symmetrically. But he has taken it from a very low angle so that half of the pictorial frame is filled with the pavement. The visual excitement is enhanced by the zigzagging lines on the pavement, a pattern so dynamic that the stolid building seems to be floating on ripples of water.

Jun has a similar shot of a pavement in London with a small shadow of a boy on a bike. But here the patterns are washed by the cool harmony of blue and green so that the image appears relatively serene. Jun's seeming fondness for the monochrome adds to this serenity.

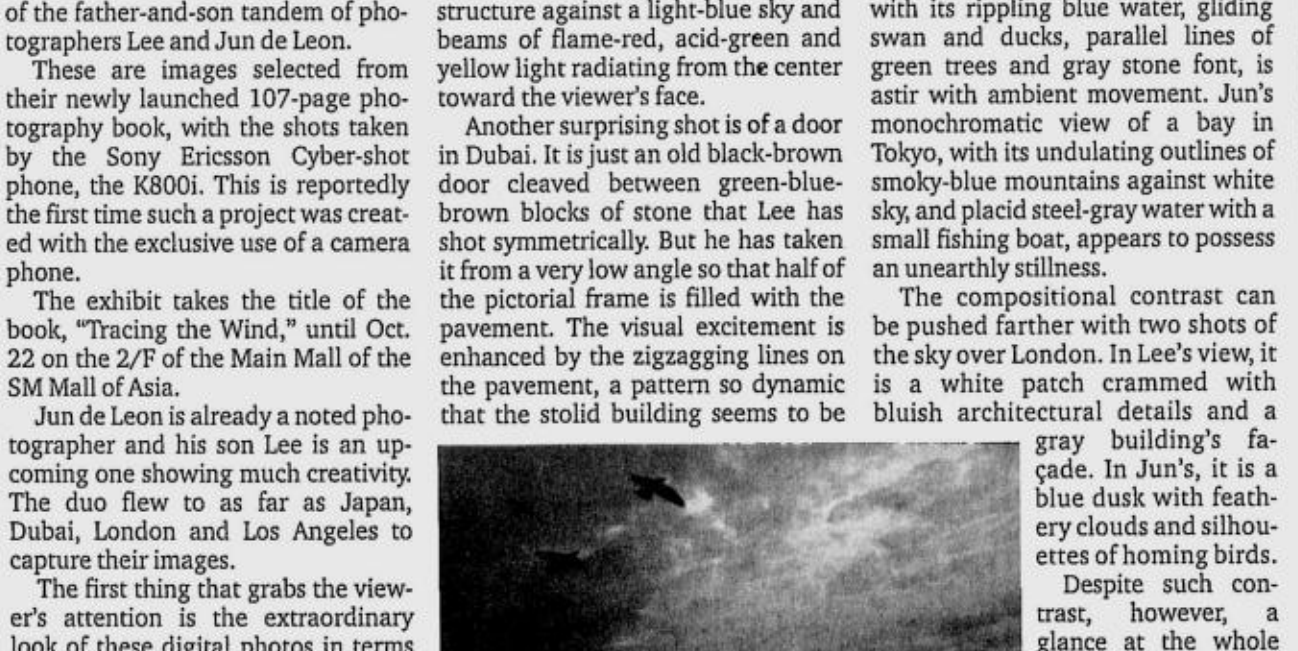
The father's sense of composition vis-à-vis the son's can be better appreciated in their two waterscapes.

Lee's image of a pond in London, with its rippling blue water, gliding swan and ducks, parallel lines of green trees and gray stone font, is astir with ambient movement. Jun's monochromatic view of a bay in Tokyo, with its undulating outlines of smoky-blue mountains against white sky, and placid steel-gray water with a small fishing boat, appears to possess an unearthly stillness.

The compositional contrast can be pushed farther with two shots of the sky over London. In Lee's view, it is a white patch crammed with bluish architectural details and a gray building's façade. In Jun's, it is a blue dusk with feathery clouds and silhouettes of homing birds.

Despite such contrast, however, a glance at the whole exhibit and one feels at gut level that a father and a son are at work here.

JUN de Leon



LEE de Leon

"FILIPINO Family," by Manuel Baldemor

'Cuatro Amigos' at Asia Art Gallery

"CUATRO AMIGOS," A GROUP EXHIBIT FEAturing four veteran artists—Malang, Manuel Baldemor, Julius Limpe and Al Perez—is on view at the Asia Art Gallery until Oct. 25.

Malang presents his signature women-vendors subject.

Baldemor, a peripatetic traveler, renews his ties with his Filipiniana roots in Paete, with works that explore the itinerant Filipino soul.

Limpe, a self-taught expressionist painter, contributes his share of paintings exploring his favorite turf: tropical fishes.

Perez, the revered painter of historic churches, has works done in his signature fashion, though he has of late been experimenting with abstract motif and incorporating recycled materials from local craftsmen.

"WOMEN Vendors," by Malang

Koi and flowers by Escueta

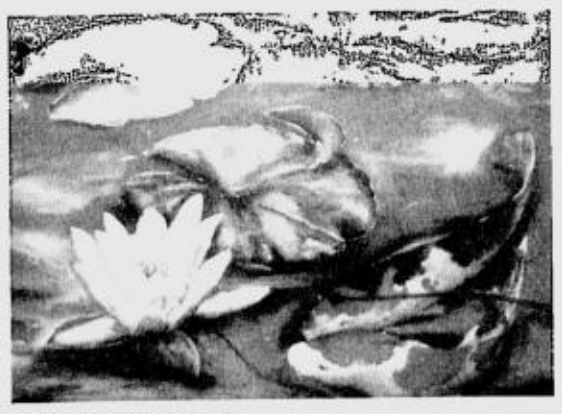
EILEEN BONDOC-ESCUETA MOUNTS her watercolor exhibit "Soirée Aquarelle," until Oct. 25 at Galerie Joaquin, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Escueta presents 32 works inspired by the senses in a living garden series full of roses, water lilies, lotuses and koi fish.

Inspired by the gardens she has seen, Escueta has painted floral textures of intoxicating colors.

A passionate admirer of Oriental art, Escueta has taught Chinese painting and watercolor at Ayala Museum.

In "Soirée Aquarelle," flowers and fish are her muses, interpreted with intimacy.



"DOUBLE Delight"

Feng shui-inspired works on exhibit

CHINESE-FILIPINO LIZANNE UYCHACO, a best-selling painter and senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Philam Life, will launch her new collection on Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m., at Art Elements Asian Gallery, 3/L, Power Plant Mall.

As a successful businesswoman and artist, Uychaco maintains a balance in her life. She's well versed in *feng shui*, and her paintings embody this ancient Chinese practice of placement and space to enhance harmony, balance, good health and fortune.

Painting the *feng shui* elements of water, wood, fire, earth and metal, together with the motif of the ancient Chinese coin she has worn for health and luck since age 5, she believes that her art brings positive energy, good health and fortune.

Call 7576008 or e-mail at artelements@surfshop.net.ph

"DRAGON Boat," by Lizanne Uychaco

"THREE Ladies" 2, by Lydia Velasco

"THREE Ladies" 3, by Velasco

Sotheby's to auction off 18 Pinoy works

SOTHEBY'S WILL HOLD ITS MAIN auction of Southeast Asian art on Oct. 22, at the Regent of Singapore.

On April, all 16 artworks by the Filipino artists successfully sold at auction for a total of S$537,240 or P17,191,000.

For the October auction, Sotheby's has chosen 18 artworks from 11 artists.

The banner Filipino piece is a 47 3/4" x 96" Nena Saguil piece titled "Manila, Philippines," dated 1948. This piece is estimated at S$120,000-S$180,000 or US$76,000-US$114,000.

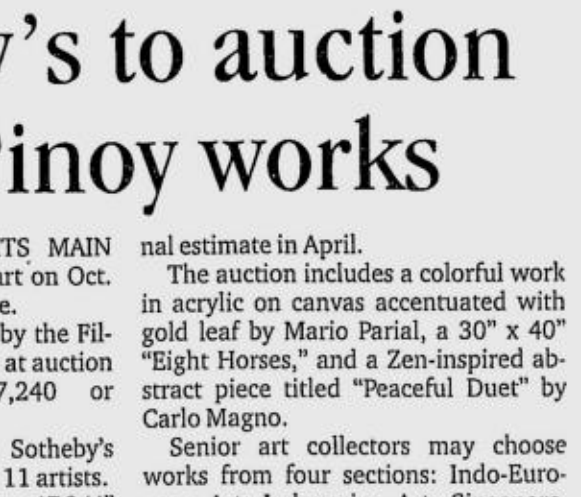
Also on auction are five Amorsolos, a rare Manansala, four Tabuenas, a minimalist abstract piece by José Joya and Sanso's 36¼" x 29" acrylic on canvas titled "Blossoms of Summer," two works by H.R. Ocampo, and a Pacita Abad titled "Circles on 42nd Street."

Included in the section "New Contemporary Paintings" are a triptych by Lydia Velasco. "Three Ladies" acrylic on canvas, has a combined size of 48" x 54". Velasco's "Flower Vendors" sold at 2½ times the original estimate in April.

The auction includes a colorful work in acrylic on canvas accentuated with gold leaf by Mario Parial, a 30" x 40" "Eight Horses," and a Zen-inspired abstract piece titled "Peaceful Duet" by Carlo Magno.

Senior art collectors may choose works from four sections: Indo-European Art; Indonesian Art; Singapore, Malaysian, Filipino and Thai Paintings; and Vietnamese Paintings.

For the younger collectors, Sotheby's has opened the category New Contemporary Paintings.



"PEACEFUL Duet," by Carlo Magno

"EIGHT Horses," by Mario Parial

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Unlocking the Province of Potential

Bulacan Gets PLDT-Enabled

By Walter Ray Choi

Bulacan is situated right smack in the middle of promise and opportunity. It's just a short car drive to either Manila or the hot growth areas of the Subic Freeport and the Clark Economic Zone. Today Bulacan is realizing other opportunities aside from its historic role as the main pillar of Philippine independence and as a major economic mover being the leading food producer of the country.

"We want to lure our young workforce back to Bulacan," explains Governor Josie dela Cruz. "And we're going to do that by unlocking our province's potential through ICT development. ICT is the way to go."

Part of the Bulacan Provincial Government's strategy is to enable its provincial government workers with the award-winning PLDT WeRoam. With PLDT WeRoam and notebook PCs, government services and functions can be more effectively del[illegible]d throughout Bulacan's sprawling territory.

"Among other things, we can do more accurate tax surveys," said Rex Mangalindan, Department Head of the Provincial Information Technology Office of Bulacan. "Our agents can use PLDT WeRoam to monitor updated zone information on our website and use it for tax-mapping."

Among the many awards Bulacan has won, its dynamic website won Best Provincial Website for 2005. It was proven to be the optimum channel for extended government services as well as an online forum for Bulacan residents to offer their suggestions or air their concerns which are promptly acted on.

"Our Taas-Noo Bulacan program is always finding ways to inspire and motivate our constituents and usually the best stories concern Bulacan's new opportunities in ICT, opportunities that we can easily capitalize on," said Governor Josie.

Bulacan is a province that is increasingly on the move and it has chosen PLDT to be its partner to get ICT-enabled. "We are proud to be chosen by such a tech-savvy governor," said PLDT SVP and Head of the Corporate Business Group Eric R. Alberto. "It is timely for Bulacan to fully harness its human capital strengths, particularly in ICT skills, to take advantage of new opportunities in the Philippine ICT sector, especially in Call Centers and BPOs."

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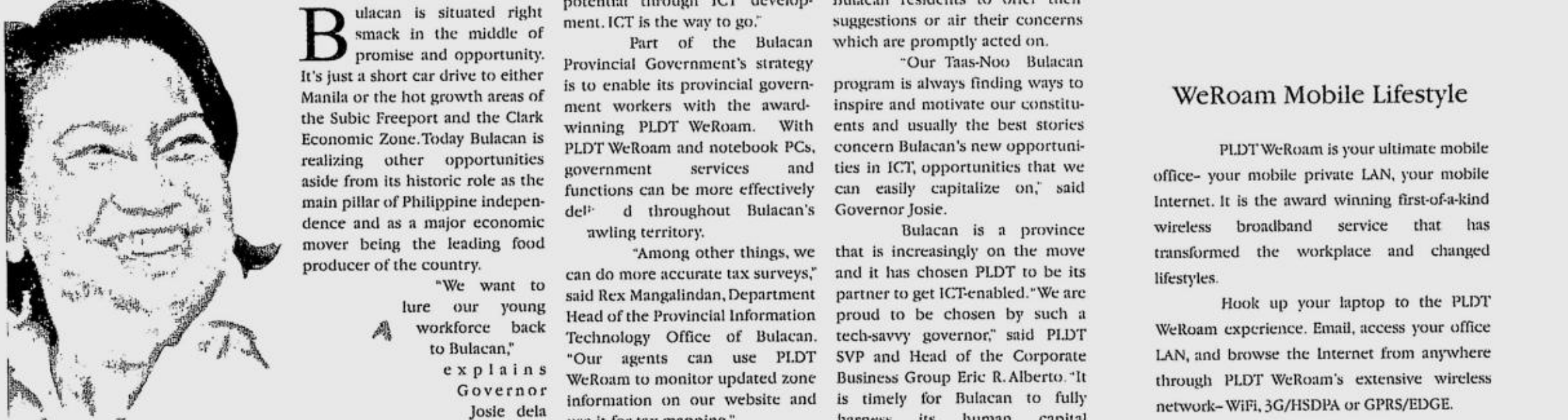


Hiraya feels your 'Pain'

HIRAYA GALLERY MARKS ITS 26TH ANniversary Oct. 17 with a group exhibition of 12 artists, "Feel no Pain."

The artists featured belong to diverse ages and come from different art inspirations.

A teacher of art at the European International School in Parañaque, Karla Cruz-Gobin shows off the form called Belgian surreal art that she has mastered at the Cours des Metiers d'Arts du Hainaut in Belgium. Her 12 small frames to be displayed are extremely personal pieces of artwork which she describes as "musings in repose." They are aesthetic explorations on a style described as social realism and neo-realism.

Eric Guazon approximates in "Collateral #2" a melodramatic depiction of the carnal violence which "comfort women" had experienced in World War II.

Arnel Brillantes documents in impressionist style his father's departure from the Philippines. "Paglisan" speaks of the ripples of feelings that occur inside a young son who shared 32 years of a lifetime with his much-idolized father who must leave the country to seek better medication abroad.

"ISOLATION and Connection," by Amani Abdelbari Pourcines

Thomas Daquioag paints a paean to an extraordinary Filipina matriarch, Pilar Goyena, who marks her birth centenary in November.

Egyptian painter Amani Abdelbari Pourcines embellishes her portrait of Goyena with tenderness and understanding.

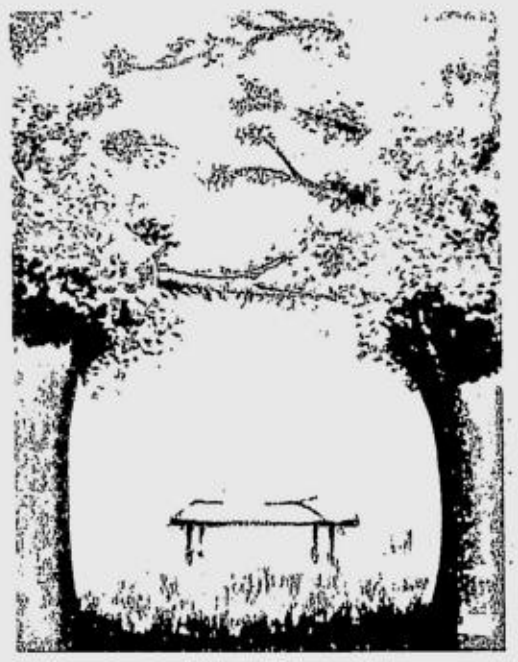
Deborah del Pan's "Madonna Without" filters the strains of pain in the breeze flowing into the old flesh and bones of a woman and weaves a ghostly image of an otherwise kind stranger whose face is reflected on the mirror.

Magazine photographer Bobot Meru captures the spirit of his squatter neighbors, women who are toothless but full of life.

A recipient of the 2006 Ateneo Art Award, Maya Muñoz records in "Shikataganai Mon Amour" a sharp trick of memory which lay in street graffiti and ultimately in the human fate. "All things fall apart. Everything goes; in time everyone leaves—youth, night and day, rich and poor," the inscription says.

The exhibit also includes recent works of Fernando Modesto, Guillermo Ramos and Butch Payawal.

"Feel No Pain" is a special project of Hiraya Gallery in connection with the forthcoming Congress of the Association of Southeast Asian Pain Societies, locally represented by the Pain Society of the Philippines.



UNTITLED, by Karla Cruz-Gobin

"A HUNDRED Reasons to Smile," by Thomas Daquioag

"OLD FRIENDS," by Bobot Meru

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

AUGUSTO Villalon has taken a sick leave from his weekly column, "Pride of Place." He needs to recover from the hand injuries he sustained when a window in his house was smashed by strong winds at the height of typhoon "Milenyo." We will miss him, but he promises to be back soon. —Ed

Anita Magsaysay-Ho, BenCab, Malang, Lao Lianben, Romulo Olazo, Antonio Austria, Mario Parial, Pacita Abad, Norma Belleza, Manuel Baldemor, Ofie Gelvezon-Tequi, Charlie Co, Raul Isidro, Nunelucio Alvarado, Angel Cacnio, Lydia Velasco, Justin Nuyda, Soler Santos, Cid Reyes, Jose tence-Ruiz, Rock Drilon, Mark Justiniani, Steve Santos, Marcel Antonio, Elmer Borlongan, Jose John Santos III, Kiko Escora, Alfredo Esquillo Jr, Daniel Coquilla, Ferdinand Montemayor, Emmanuel Garibay, Joy Mallari, Geraldine Javier, Olan Ventura, Ronald Ventura, Mario de Rivera, Rishab Tibon, Jose Datuin, Karen Flores, Waling-Waling Gorospe, Buds Convocar, Roland Bay-an, El Cordova, Lizanne Uychaco, Claude Tayag, Wire Tuazon, Wilfredo Alicdan, Christian Tamondong, Hermes Alegre, Ray Halili, Pamela Yan, Patrick de Veyra, Rowena Gaborni, CJ Tanedo, Rodel Tapaya, Romeo Forbes, Yvees Belen, Allan Jay Balisi, Bin Samonte

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LIFESTYLE

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Lea Salonga performs for traumatized children

PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

CONSIDER THE PLIGHT of traumatized children in the Philippines, not to mention other countries which have their share of misfortunes and tragedies.

They are the victims of natural calamities like floods and killer typhoons, and manmade disasters like armed conflict. In this country, there are children who become tense when they hear the roar of water, thinking floodwaters will engulf their house anew.

And there are those who are startled when they hear any kind of explosion, be it a flat tire or a firecracker, believing there is a new military encounter.

The United Nations Children's Fund, Cultural Center of the Philippines, and other agencies have sent teams of doctors and actors to help these children, from Isabela and Southern Leyte to Sulu. But, as always, more funds are needed.

CCP vice president and artistic director Nanding Josef called attention to the plight of these children in a recent press conference to announce the concert "Tomorrow," to be held at the CCP on Oct. 20-21. (Sponsors are Globe Platinum, Stores Specialists Inc., and Procter & Gamble Distributing Phils. Benefactors are AIG credit cards, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., and International Container Terminal Services Inc.)

The event will raise funds for the traumatized children, with singing actress Lea Salonga as the main performer.

LEA SALONGA

Guests include the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), Hail Mary the Queen Children's Choir, Kilyawan Boys' Choir, singer Calvin Millado, and child singer Julia Abueva.

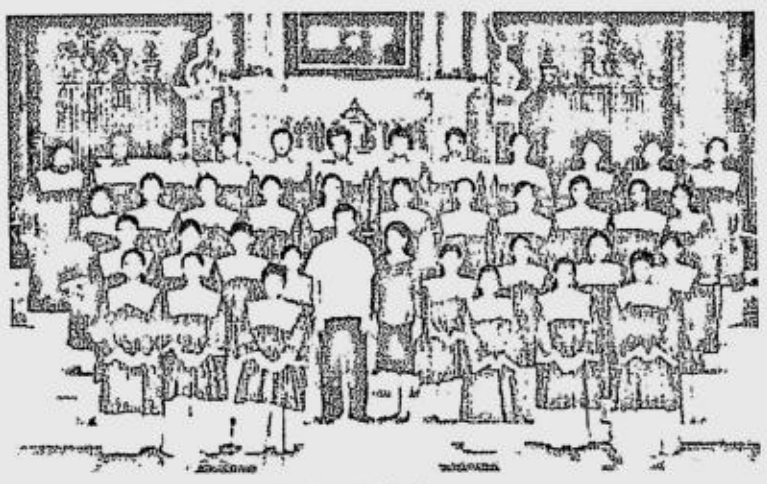
Gerard Salonga is music director, and Chris Millado directs.

During the presscon, Salonga indicated her desire to help traumatized children through this benefit concert. She said: "I am fortunate enough not to be a traumatized child and I have been given so many opportunities..."

Now that she was a mother, the singer said she could better relate to the role she made famous in the musical "Miss Saigon," wherein the mother, following the plot of the opera "Madame Butterfly," gave her son away and then killed herself.

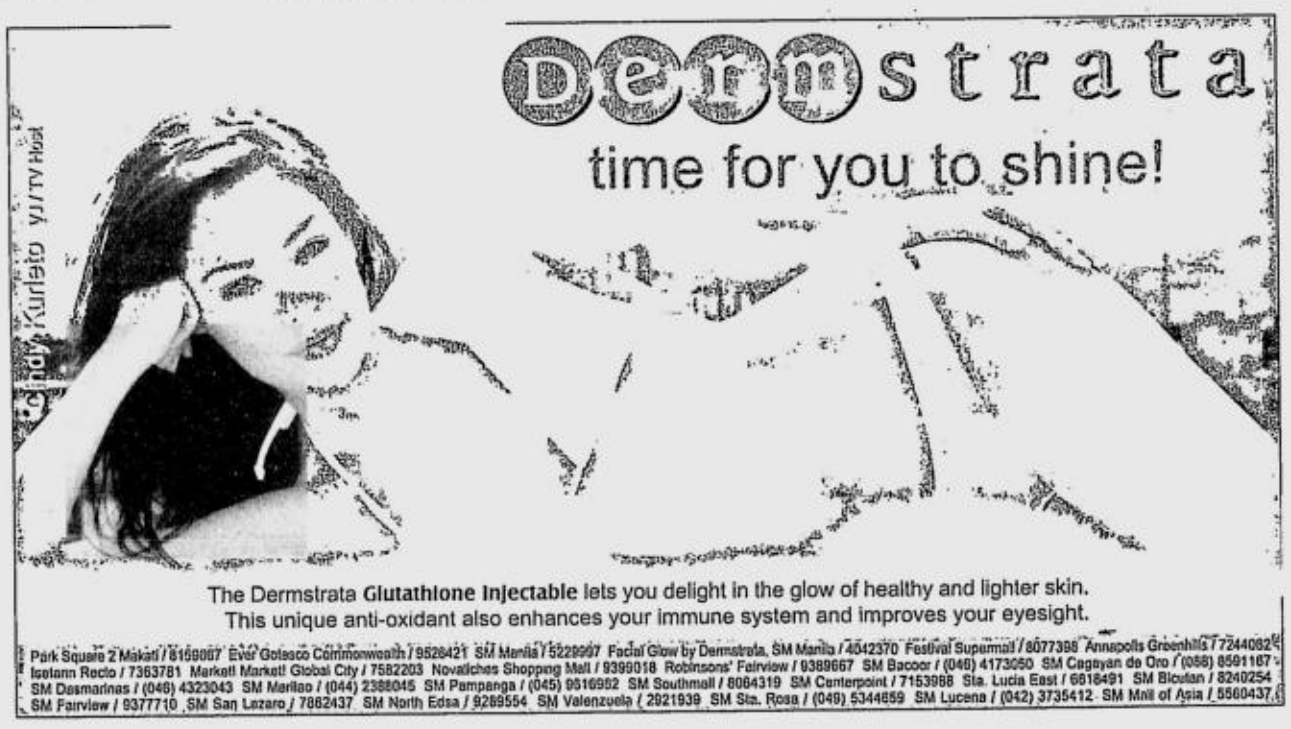
Salonga said: "I will do anything for her [baby daughter Nicole Beverly]!"

PPO manager Becca José said that at the end of the concert, the theme song "Tomorrow" (from the musical "Annie") will be sung like an anthem for the traumatized children of the Philippines and the world.



HAIL Mary the Queen Children's Choir

CALVIN Millado



Happiness is Buhay Coke

Coke's unique taste and happy fizz invites everyone to do the same - to stand apart and be confident, and to make the most out of everything

Could happiness come from a bottle? Ask any Coke drinker and you're sure to get a big grin. After all, there's nothing like the taste of Coke, with its corresponding fizz and bubbles. It's simple, really. Drinking Coke makes people happy. It's more than a thirst-quencher; it's a tonic for the body and the soul.

The six-story IMAX Theater at the SM Mall of Asia was transformed into a fairground brimming with happiness and optimism on the afternoon of October 10, 2006 as Coke kicked off its latest campaign called Buhay Coke, Buksan Mo with a bang. The country's prominent names in entertainment, business, fashion and politics turned out to embrace Buhay Coke and make the active choice to be happy.

Guests came dressed in happy colorful garb at the IMAX Theater, which was bathed in vibrant, energizing red, and were greeted at the entrance with a giant Coke vending machine which served as the entrance to Buhay Coke. Officially opening Buhay Coke were Alex von Behr, The Coca-Cola Export Company Division President, and Roberto Huang of the Coca-Cola Bottling company who dropped huge coins into the giant vending machine.

Inside Buhay Coke was a scene straight out of an amusement park with magicians, jugglers, tons of balloons and glitter tattoos. Waiters with red balloon bow ties served miniature corndogs, pizzas, burgers, fries and popcorn; people also swarmed around the snowcone and dirty ice cream stands. There were also a slew of activities aimed at inspiring everyone to share the happiness and get that optimism vibe. The entire atmosphere was geared towards getting those happy endorphins flowing and putting a smile on everyone's faces. All these set against the Coke chillout lounge showcasing the ubiquitous Coke bottle spraying a burst of vibrant colors and happy symbols like butterflies, smilies, hearts, people and flowers instead of the usual bubbles. Adding to the thrill was a parade of colorful jeepneys all sporting the specially designed Buhay Coke theme and happily honking to offer free rides and bottles of Cokes to all commuters. It was a great way to start living Buhay Coke!

At the heart of the Buhay Coke, Buksan Mo campaign is a credo for living life in full color, creating a positive reality, being spontaneous, and listening to one's heart. Each line of the teen creed represents a vital ingredient for living Buhay Coke and talks about going out of the comfort zone and trying something new; making new friends and making peace; accepting mistakes and moving on; opening one's heart to love and not being afraid of pain. The last line makes a powerful statement and resonated with hope: "Pangarap, 'wag bitawan. Malay mo. Subok lang!"

The presence of popular bands such as 6CycleMind, Up Dharma Down, Dice and K9 and-whose musical interpretations of the Buhay Coke creed were on the CD given away to all guests-provided funky sounds that upped the energy level. Aside from these bands, the much-coveted CD also features other musical groups such as Radioactive Sago Project, Aizo, Sandwich and Greyhoundz with their own unique versions of the teen creed with that unmistakable Coke vibe.

Limited edition Coke bottles with a full body wrap of the red and lively Buhay Coke theme were also given away to guests as memento of their stay in Buhay Coke. To share the joy, each bottle of Coke drank during the celebration meant a corresponding Php100 donation to the Philippine National Red Cross for the victims of the Typhoon Milenyo. It was a unique and fun way to do something good for a greater cause. The celebration was then capped with a free showing of the hit movie "Ant Bully" at the IMAX Theater in all its 3D glory...spreading happiness to one and all.

Coke's unique taste and happy fizz invites everyone to do the same - to stand apart and be confident, and to make the most out of everything. Embracing the Buhay Coke means sharing and bringing happiness to others just like the way every sip of Coke puts a smile on your face, making life truly refreshing. Down to the last gulp.

Maxed out fun. The six-story IMAX Theater at the SM Mall of Asia is where the Coke Side of Life's fun and happiness overflows.

SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX

Advt

Russian prizewinner debuts in Manila

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE RESULT OF THE FIRST HONG Kong International Piano Competition was made available to me through a video provided by Annabela Freris of the Chopin Society of Hong Kong and through a very personal and well-documented reportage of Chang Tou Liang, artistic director of the Singapore International Piano Festival, who also chairs the advisory committee of the National Piano and Violin Competitions.

And so I relived the competition through excerpts from actual footage and the commentary of Liang in her competition diary.

What convinced me that this Hong Kong piano competition is unique is the presence of a select jury in the persons of Gary Graffman, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Cristina Ortiz, Vladimir Krainev, Leon Fleisher.

Apart from playing required solo pieces, the contestants had to do chamber music and, in the finale, the required Mozart concerto and romantic concertos of their choices.

The bigger attraction of this competition was all the finalists were accompanied by the London Chamber Orchestra, flown in by the Chopin Society of Hong Kong just for this competition.

All told, the competition pitted Asians (from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore) with contestants from Italy and Russia.

And the winners are Kim Sung Hoon (Korea), third prize; Wen Yu Shen (People's Republic of China), second; and Ilya Rashkovskiy (Russia), first.

The good news is Rashkovskiy will be heard for the first time in Manila Dec. 13 at Philamlife Theater in cooperation with the Chopin Society of Hong Kong.

For tickets, call 0906-5104270 or 9007023.

INGRID Sala Santamaria with Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in Argao, Cebu

Santamaria-Reyes tour

The 12th Romantic Piano Concerto Journey of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes ended last month with memorable concerts and interaction from music-lovers in Batangas, Cebu, Cavite, Laguna.

They even invaded a shopping mall in Las Piñas (courtesy of Rep. Cynthia Villar), a house of worship in Makati, piano studios in Parañaque and Alabang, and a history museum in Silay.

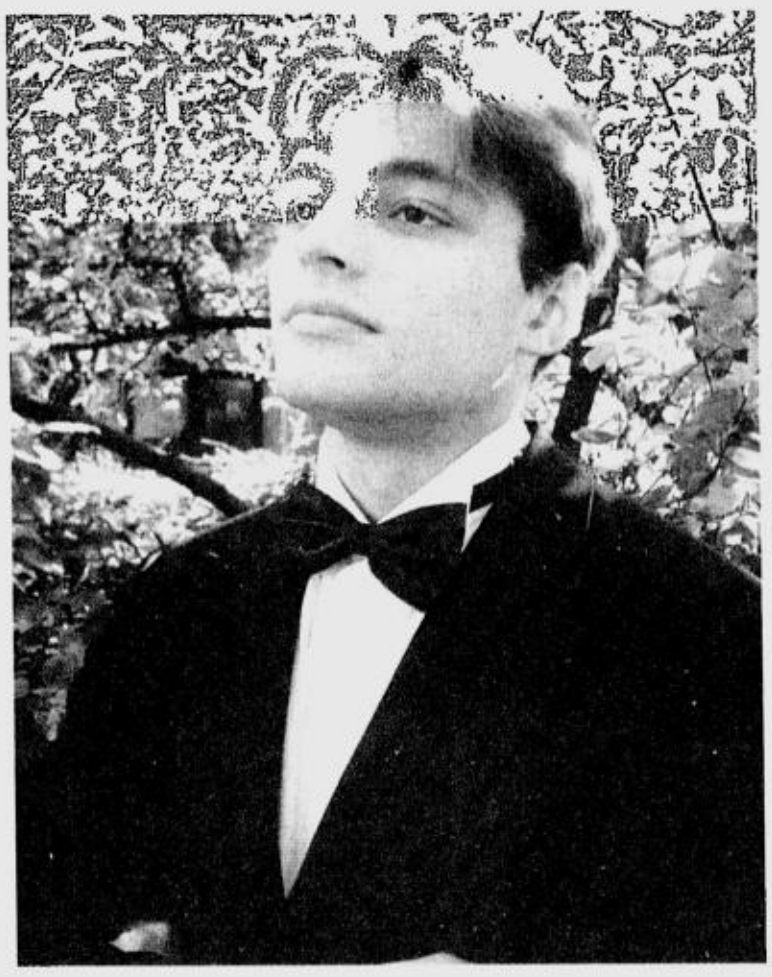
But the most touching perhaps is the one held in historic Argao Church in Argao, Cebu.

In the audience was Argao's most famous son, former chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., and Virginia Davide.

After the concertos, one music-lover declared the concert was his most memorable experience after living in Argao for decades.

Songs by Tinio

The superb Filipino translations by National Artist for Theater Rolando Tinio of art songs and arias came to life anew in a preview concert of tenor Frankie Aseniero with pianist Nita Abrogar Quinto at the Vibal Arts Center on Oct. 3. Guest artist was mezzo soprano Anna Feleo, who sang excerpts from "Carmen."



ILYA Rashkovskiy, first prize winner of First Hong Kong International Piano Competition

From Odette Alcantara, we learned that Klassiko Filipino Inc. would tour the Tinio-translated repertoire with Aseniero, Feleo, Rachelle Gerodias, Gamaliel Viray, Jong Cuenco, with pianists Reynaldo Reyes and Benjamin Dia Jr., starting this month.

We received a copy of the Aseniero CD during the preview. I treasure this CD in the memory of Tinio, who brought opera to the masses when he translated and directed "Traviata" and "Boheme" at the CCP to the consternation of opera purists.

When the foreign Violetta sang "Addio del Passato" inside the huge mosquito net, I overheard murmurs of *Que horror* from the conservatives. I am now curious as to how Floy Quintos will do a localized "Traviata" for Philippine Opera Company next year.

By the way, the Klassiko Filipino preview was hosted by arts patron Esther Vibal, with assisting artist Julie Mendoza threatening to accompany and coach me sing Abelardo's "Pakiusap" to be done pianissimo all the way.

Here and there

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduljadej's accession to the throne of Thailand, the Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, the CCP and the Royal Thai Embassy presented the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra last Oct. 11 at the CCP Main Theater.

Called "A Concert of Royal Compositions," the concert featured 16 compositions of His Majesty King Bhumibol, who is also a musician, composer, arranger and performer. Rear Admiral M.L. Usni Pramoj, RTN and a Thai national artist conducted the orchestra.

Did you know that in one performance of Cecile Licad in Washington, DC, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit greeted Licad and had a short chat with her backstage? Licad found out the queen studied piano with a famous teacher in Paris.

Baguio gets a feel of the Noh

By Frank Cimatu
INQUIRER Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WHEN NOH MASter Naohiko Umewaka says, "Hello," it would sound something like "hiyeeeh-yeah-hiyeeee-yeah-yeah-iye-hiyel-yell."

"That is 30 seconds already and we have not said the whole word," Umewaka said.

So imagine staging, for example, the chapter on "Sisa" in José Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere."

Umewaka said staging Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio's "Ang Paglalakbay ni Sisa: Isang Noh sa Laguna" would take three hours in the traditional Noh (Japanese traditional theater).

But Umewaka, son of Noh master Naoyoshi Umewaka and a master of Noh in his own right, loves to innovate this ancient Japanese dramatic form that combines dance, song, poetry and mask.

Umewaka staged excerpts of Bonifacio's "Sisa" to a full house at Vocas in Baguio City recently. It had been raining so hard and so long in Baguio that one would think people were coming not for the Noh performance but to seek refuge in Kidlat Tahimik's "galleon" at the Vocas theater.

The rain pounded on the roof that no one, at first, could understand University of the Philippines professor Jina Umali's explanation of the Noh.

Umewaka, who was only 3 years old when he started his Noh training, had been coming to the Philippines for the past 25 years to teach and perform Noh. A fruit of his labor is the UP Center for International Studies' Noh Theater Ensemble.

NOH master Umewaka performs "Sisa."

The ensemble which Umewaka brought to Baguio included Julius Fernan Garrido, Danielle Uy and Diana Malahay.

Garrido, who played the *kotsuzumi*, the Noh shoulder drum shaped like an hourglass, had a booming voice (known as *kakegoe*) and could put modern rappers to shame. Noh dancer Malahay flicked her Japanese fan like a switchblade to the accompaniment of the *kotsuzumi*.

Umewaka played "Sisa" with Garrido and Uy (who played the *kotsuzumi*) as the chorus.

The play had been stylized as Noh so well that many people did not realize they were singing in Filipino and not in Nihonggo.

"I like playing here. It's so Japanese," Umewaka said.

Vocas has a wooden water wheel and garden similar to that found in Kurosawa's "Dreams."

It has been said that this was the first time Noh has been played in the city by a non-Japanese troupe.

But based on the book "Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands," it is possible the Noh had been performed in Baguio before World War II.

The close-knit Japanese community in the city held important Japanese festivals simultaneously with those in Japan. They even had their own haiku and sumo troupes in the city.

The Noh performance here was just a way of saying hello to that memory.

Photo exhibit, poetry reading at Rainbow Project

THE RAINBOW PROJECT AT THE Nakpil-Orosa Courtyard in Malate, Manila, will hold a series of literary readings and artistic shows dubbed "Bohemian Fridays."

Celebrity photographer Dominique James will open an exhibit of photographs Oct. 20, 9 p.m.

To be held also on Oct. 20 is a literary reading by prize-winning writers at the second floor lounge starting 9 p.m.

The audience may also read their own works during the open-mic session.

Admission is free. Call 5360781 or 0917-8378717.

Fabio in fashion show

ARMANDO FABIO, A WINNER of the 1991 Young Fashion Designers Contest by Air France and the Fashion Designers Group and a resident designer of Robinson's, will present his boudoir collection at the Formula Bar on Tomas Morato Street, Quezon City, Oct. 19, 8 p.m.

Since entering the scene in the '90s. Fabio has designed swimwear, resort wear and lingerie.

He has also done shows in Jersey City and at the Philippine Center in Manhattan.

His creations are considered sexy but show exquisite detailing and craftsmanship.

ARMANDO Fabio

Elderly comedy is Pelicula audience choice

THE COMEDY "ELSA Y Fred," a 2005 movie by Argentina's Marcos Carnevale, is the best film of the two-week-long 5th Spanish Film Festival, according to an audience vote.

Pelicula: The 5th Spanish Film Festival is a major highlight of Fiesta 2006, the month-long Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts, presented by Instituto Cervantes, the cultural arm of the Embassy of Spain.

During the festival, filmgoers were provided a ballot to give them a chance to rate the movies. Each ballot also counted as a ticket for several prizes raffled Oct. 15.

SCENE from "Elsa y Fred"

"Elsa y Fred" is a lovely comedy that tells the love story of two senior citizens: Elsa is 82 and, for the past 60 years, has dreamt of starring in the scene of Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" at the Fontana di Trevi. She meets another old man, Alfredo, who is slightly younger, and she teaches him the value of time.

Other audience favorites according to the balloting were "El Abuelo," "El Método," and Fernando León's "Princesas," a poignant drama that opened the festival. "El Abuelo," directed by Garci in 1998, tells the story of an old man who wants to find out who of his two granddaughters is the legitimate one.

"El Método" (M. Piñeyro, 2005), based on a famous play about different interview jobs, explores the dark inner workings of the corporate world. The film, featuring great acting and dense dialogues, received two Goya Awards.

For more information on Fiesta 2006, call 5261482-85 or log on to manila.cervantes.es.

Personality development school students win in New York tilt

CHELSEA Mae Robato

CHELSEA MAE ROBATO, A JOHN ROBERT Powers student from Guam, won third runner-up in the jeans competition in the recent International Modeling Talent Association (Imta) tilt at the New York Hilton. She also garnered honorable mention in the fashion print and runway competitions.

The Imta annual event gathers 2,000 JRP students from all over the world. John Robert Powers Japan sent Rie Makita from Tokyo who won first runner-up in the jeans competition, while Kana Saito (Tokyo) was second runner-up. Getting honorable mention awards were Sakie Yamaguchi, Wamu Hiratsuka and Mika Omae from Fukuoka; Ai Hirano from Osaka and Meri Wakui (Tokyo).

John Robert Powers Manila trained the students before they left for New York. This will be the fourth time the school joined the event.

Heritage conservation seminar set

THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (HCS), in collaboration with the Urban Partnerships Foundation (UPF) and the University of the Philippines History Department, will hold "Seminar on Philippine Towns & Cities: Reflections of the Past, Lessons for the Future" Nov. 8 at Development Academy of the Philippines, LS Virata Hall, San Miguel Avenue (near Shaw Blvd.), Pasig City.

Seminar fee is P2,500 for the private sector P1,500 for the government sector and P500 for students with ID.

Call HCS (5212239, e-mail hcs_secretariat@yahoo.com) or UPF (8951812/8961902, e-mail deinsiedel.upf@gmail.com).

FROM left: Vernie Varga receives her token of appreciation from Dr. Bob Aquino; Ruben Laurente and Cocoy Laurel; Medwin Marfil of True Faith

'Sail On...' concert and dance tour

"SAIL ON... HIS MOST HOLY FACE," THE second major ecumenical concert and dance tour, was held at Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue, recently.

Spearheaded by Dr. Bob Aquino, a devotee of the Holy Face of Jesus, the concert was presented by Hypernova Productions and Young Apostles of the Holy Face of Jesus.

The program featured Ruben Laurente singing the concert theme song "Sail On" with the St. Paul Manila Performing Arts. The stage backdrop had a blown-up picture of the album cover of the "Sail On... His Most Holy Face" CD distributed by Universal Records.

Famous film and TV personalities shared their life testimonies, like Pilar Pilapil, composer Titus Javier, entertainer Elizabeth Ramsey (who serenaded the Holy Face Portrait of Jesus with "Portrait of My Love"), Arnel Ignacio, Denise Laurel, Cocoy Laurel and Vernie Varga.

The dance competition, performed to a cut from the album, had a distinguished panel of judges: National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan, Douglas Nierras of PowerDance and Joel Cruz of Afficionados.

The Lyceum Performing Arts won the grand prize, while UP Manila Indayog claimed second place. Third place went to FEU Performing Arts.

The show ended with True Faith singing "Alaala" and "Dahil Ikaw."

Watch out for the Holy Face Dinner for a Cause Oct. 30 at Atrium Café, 15/F Atrium Hotel, and the "Sail On" third dance tour Dec. 1 at FEU Auditorium, 5-8 p.m. Call 0919-6036498.

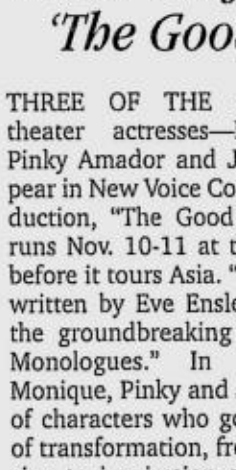
PILAR Pilapil

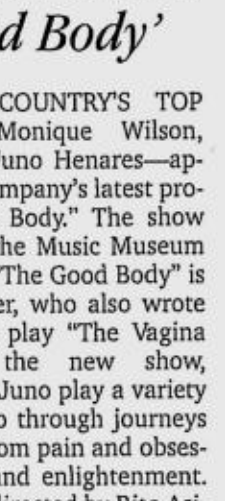
ARNEL Ignacio

Watch out for NVC's 'The Good Body'

THREE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP theater actresses—Monique Wilson, Pinky Amador and Juno Henares—appear in New Voice Company's latest production, "The Good Body." The show runs Nov. 10-11 at the Music Museum before it tours Asia. "The Good Body" is written by Eve Ensler, who also wrote the groundbreaking play "The Vagina Monologues." In the new show, Monique, Pinky and Juno play a variety of characters who go through journeys of transformation, from pain and obsession to inspiration and enlightenment. "The Good Body" is directed by Rito Asilo. Call 8966695, 8965497, 899063, e-mail nvc@pldtdsl.net or visit www.newvoicecompany.com.

CLOCKWISE: Pinky Amador, Monique Wilson, Juno Henares





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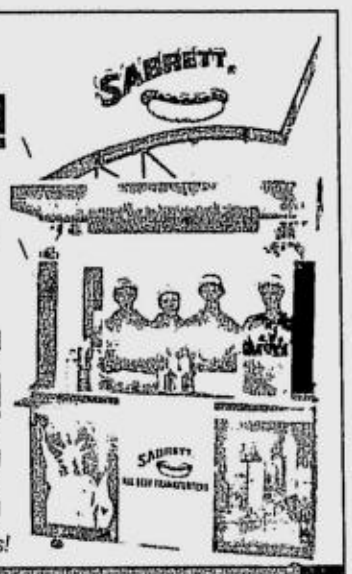

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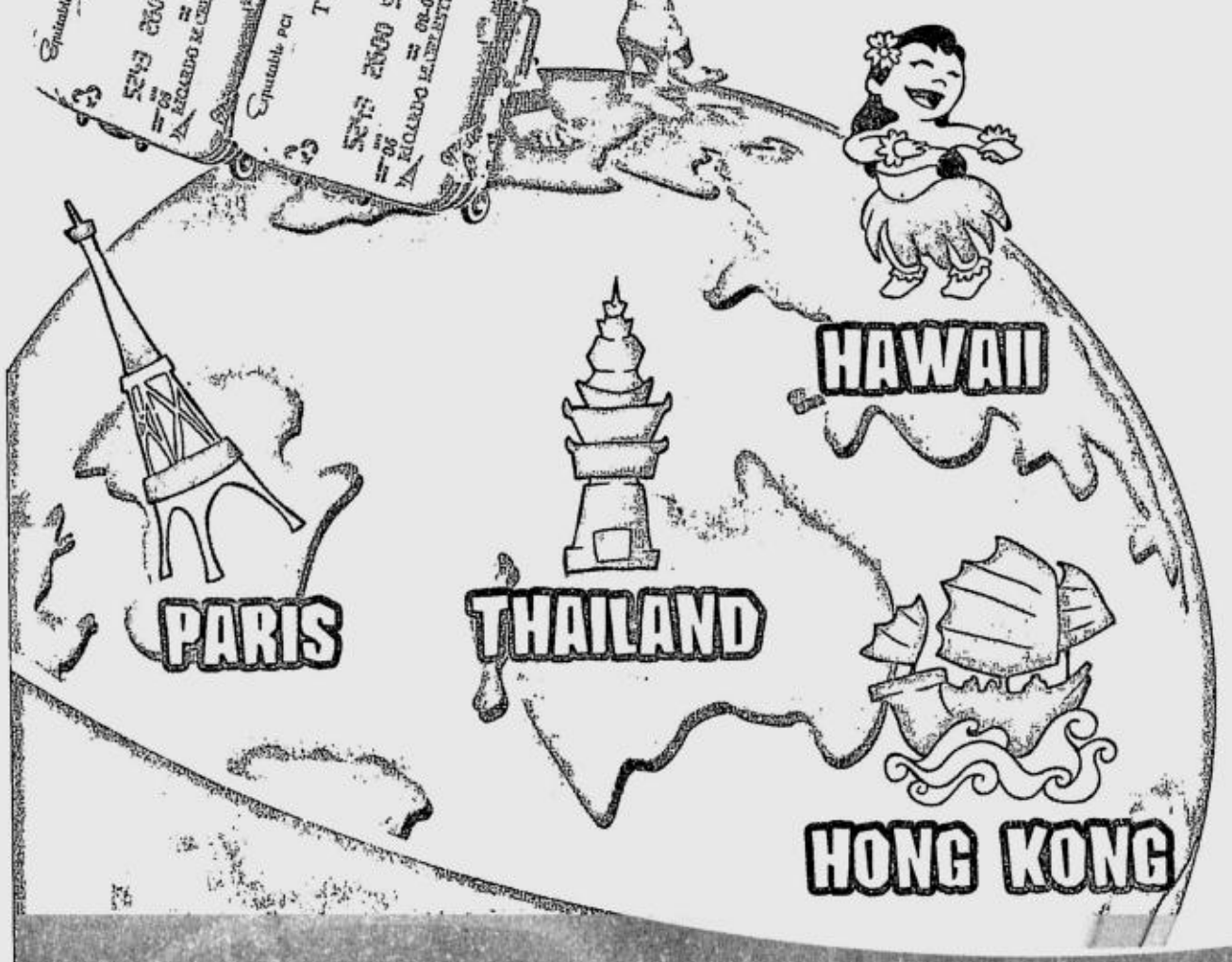

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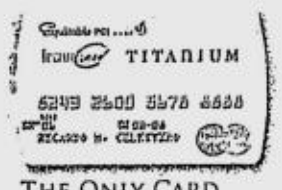

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VISUAL ARTS

Herzon de la Rosa at Philamlife

"FACE to Face," by Herzon de la Rosa

Herzon de la Rosa holds his 35th one-man exhibit "Theory of Multiplicity" until Oct. 19 at the Philamlife Lobby, United Nations Avenue, Manila. Call 5269250 or e-mail sxherzonf3@yahoo.com.

Lofranco at Avellana

"UNTITLED," by Jojo Lofranco

Opening today at Avellana Gallery is Jojo Lofranco's "Definitely, Maybe." Making a sharp turn from his hyper-realist works, the artist embarks on a series of intuitive, large-scale pieces riddled with the errant manifestations of the accidental. Drips, spotches, Art Noveau images, patterns and floating objects surprisingly cohere, contributing their verve and wit in the composition of exploding ideas. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St. Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

Sandoval at Uva

BY MARCIA E. Sandoval

Naif artist Marcia Sandoval presents "Ventas," Oct. 22-Nov 21 at Uva Restaurant, Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati. Theme of the series is "women vendors" who have captured the artist's imagination. Call 8404573, 8171447 or 0916-7991749.

Chinese contemporary art

The Osage Art Foundation of Hong Kong, National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Manila present "Susi: Key to Chinese Art Today," a celebration of traditional, modern and contemporary Chinese art. This covers three exhibits which will run simultaneously until Oct. 31 at the National Museum (paintings and historical works), Metropolitan Museum (contemporary art) and Yuchengco Museum (traditional Chinese ink paintings). Call 5271215, 5211517 or 8891234.

"DOORS and Windows," by Joe M. Nora

"MUDRA," by Florence Cinco

Nora at Genesis

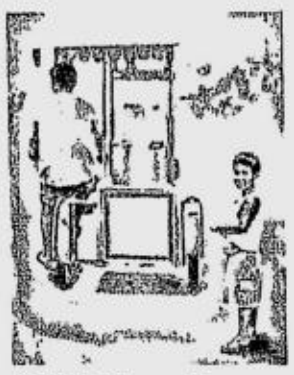
Gallery Genesis presents "The And House Doors and Windows," a one-man exhibit of paintings and verses by Joe M. Nora, until Oct. 25 at 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The goauche-and-relief images complement the poem-captions. Call 6338137/8138.

Cinco at Astra

Award-winning sculptor-painter Florence Cinco presents his fifth solo exhibit of paintings and sculptures in metal and other media in "Creation," until Oct. 25 at Galerie Astra, LRI Business Plaza along N. Garcia St., Makati. He explores chrome in cast figures of women; forming the base are recycled materials. The paintings consist of metal on wood encrusted with bolts and junk-shop materials, Call 8903988.

Habulan at Boston

Guerrero Habulan mounts his first one-man show "Paraan," until Oct. 29 at the Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St., cor. Lantana St., Cubao, QC. "Paraan" is a satirical commentary on the fantasies of the folk, in their dream to attain beauty, happiness, sexual favors and even innocence. He paints his subjects in juxtaposition with their objects of desire, although with a certain distance, to indicate the gravitation of longing. Call 7229205.



"GOTO Heaven," by Guerrero Z. Habulan

Jimenez at Mag:Net

Pete Jimenez presents iron sculptures in "Scrapyard," until Oct. 31, at Mag:net Gallery Paseo. The title refers to the origin of the works' genesis: the scrapyard. Visit www. magnet.com.ph.

"PETAL Attraction," by Pete Jimenez

Various artists at Ricco Renzo

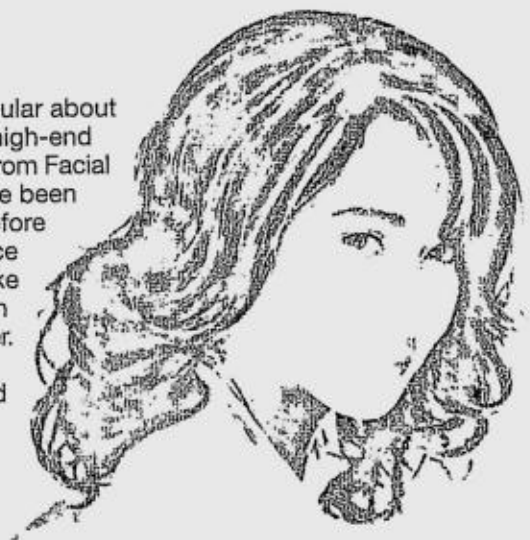
Ricco Renzo Galleries and Cafè at LRI Business Plaza Bldg., 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati presents "Verticals," an exhibit of eight artists. The exhibit opens on Oct. 20, 6 p.m. and runs until Nov. 20. Call 8982543/45.

Facial Care Centre:
24 Years of Ageless Beauty

Look fabulous in your 20's, 30's, 40's and beyond! Facial Care Centre, the country's leading anti-aging and beauty expert celebrates 24 years of Ageless Beauty. Get softer, smoother, wrinkle-free skin and enjoy big discounts this month of October.

With Facial Care Centre's proven excellence in professional skincare, having beautiful, glowing skin and looking 5 years younger is now easier. And because FCC only uses advanced non-invasive technology, it has become the preferred choice of successful, discerning women who are always on the move. Read on and find out the beauty secrets of these women and discover how they manage to look young and fabulous – at any age!

CHERIE GIL, 43: I'm very particular about what I put on my face. I only use high-end products. I use skincare products from Facial Care. They're very reliable. They've been around for more than 23 years, before anyone else! I'm at the Centre once or twice a week for treatments. I like the Facial Treatment with Collagen a lot and the Skin Tone Re-energizer. Now I'm doing Fraxel treatments, which is their newest laser. I heard about it when I was in New York, it's the latest thing.



DAWN ZULUETA-LAGDAMEO, 37: Friends who haven't seen me in years tell me, "You still look the same!" It's nice to know I seem to project that kind of aura. I think it's important to take care of your skin. The Skin Tone Re-energizer, IPL and Advanced Lasertone are my favorites. I always prefer non-invasive treatments. Why go under the knife? You don't have to with treatments at Facial Care.

CRISTINA ROMUALDEZ, 42: I've been told, "You don't look 42!" a lot which is very flattering. Everybody knows I maintain my skin with Facial Care. I live in Leyte, Tacloban and whenever I'm in Manila I always drop by. I get the IPL, Collagen Treatment, Vita Velvet and Diamond Peel. They got rid of my brown spots, spider veins and fine lines. I also get LaserLight to remove my unwanted hair.

AMINA ARANAZ-ALUNAN, 27: As I got older, my pores have gotten more obvious and my skin gets damaged from the sun easily. I always get the Deep Anti-Bacterial Facial and Diamond Peel to take care of that. I've gotten comments about how rosy my skin is even without make-up.

ANA ROCES, 30: People don't believe me when I tell them I'm 30. I get reactions like, "You're not 30, you look like a teenager!" They can't believe I have a 2-year old daughter. You just have to take care of your skin. I'm a fan of Facial Care's Firming Facial, Advanced Lasertone and Diamond Peel. LaserLight also made my legs and underarms smooth and hair-free.

BARBI CHAN, 32: People always tell me I look younger than my real age. I'm definitely a regular Facial Care client. I just love the Diamond Ultra Peel. I see that there's a difference right after the treatment. I also love LaserLight hair removal!

AMANDA GRIFFIN, 27: Lately I've been getting treatments in Facial Care to even out my skin tone. That's my problem since I'm always exposed to the sun. I enjoy their facials a lot too. I also love LaserLight permanent hair removal. After a few treatments you don't have to go through the arduous shaving process.

DELAMAR, 33: My neighbors who see me when I leave early for my morning show have asked me, *"Hija, hindi ba ang aga mo naman pumasok sa school?"* They thought I was still in school because I looked so young! I've actually been working for 10 years, so that was a great compliment. I owe that to my favorite Vita A.C.E. and Vita Velvet facial in Facial Care. And I love LaserLight!

CARMI MARTIN, 42: People have told me that I still look as good as I did when I was just starting as an actress. At my age though, I know I have to take extra steps in delaying the signs of aging. I always get Facial Care's Facial Treatment with Collagen, Skin Tone Re-energizer, Diamond Peel, Advanced Lasertone and of course IPL. Lucy Torres-Gomez even told me my skin was glowing when I was on her show!

PATTY BETITA, 38: Some students in my modeling workshop have asked me how I keep my skin glowing and rosy without make-up. And these girls were in their early 20's! My problem has always been oily skin so I get the basic facial, Advanced Lasertone, Diamond Peel and IPL. Those are my favorites.

LYN CHING, 33: In my line of work, stress, harsh lights and make-up are what I deal with everyday. So I make it a point to get my regular facials and Advanced Lasertone in Facial Care. I know they work because I get a lot of positive comments on my skin when I'm without make-up.

Facial Care Centre has highly advanced, non-invasive treatments to suit your skin's needs. Get rid of your acne scars, dark spots, fine lines and wrinkles. Flaunt clear, rosy, youthful-looking skin. With Facial Care, you can look fabulous-always! Call 892-SKIN (7546).

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Samson at Boston

"NANAY," by Jaypee Samson

Jaypee Samson mounts his first one-man exhibit of paintings "Karaniwang Tao," until Oct. 29 at the lower gallery of Boston Gallery, Cubao, QC. Samson's photorealistic paintings are a commentary on the lives of common *tao*. He demonstrates his capacity as a brilliant observer of human character and nature. Call 7229205.

Tioseco at Power Plant

Power Plant Mall's R1 Bridgeways presents Gino Tioseco's "Republic,' until Oct. 31. Tioseco is a member of the Blumentritt Group of Artists and the Guevarra Group of Artists. Call 8981702 or 8113051.

"UNTITLED," by Gino Tioseco

New book by Tagle

Catch E.R. Tagle's recent series "Frame Up" and the launching of his second book "My Life in Prison," Oct. 23, 6 p.m. at PowerBooks Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati Avenue, Makati. The exhibit runs until Oct. 29. Call 8112432 or 0927-5522288.

ARTIST Pancho Piano and his mural "Tayong Lahat, Bayani."

Pancho Piano tour

Pancho Piano is scheduled to tour his mural "Tayong Lahat, Bayani," to key cities in various regions in the country. Piano is set to hold a series of traveling shows, kicking off on Nov. 6 in the Philippine Consulate Center in New York. "Handog," the exhibit, features his latest works in abstraction such as "Sakay!" and "Voyadores." From New York, the artist will also exhibit his works in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Nov. 15-25.

MACAU 'IMPRESSIONS'

The Macau Government Tourist Office Philippines recently invited four well-known Filipino artists to interpret through their art their impressions of the former Portuguese colony. In photo with MGTO-Philippines representatives Narzalina Lim (seated, left) and Jet Cabuslay (seated, right) are (standing) Claude Tayag, National Artist Benedicto Cabrera (BenCab), Soler Santos, and Phyllis Zaballero (seated, center). The paintings will be exhibited in February. The Macau Government Tourist Office is at Suite 11-D, Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 8122595/8130947 or visit www.macautourism.gov.mo.

LIFESTYLE
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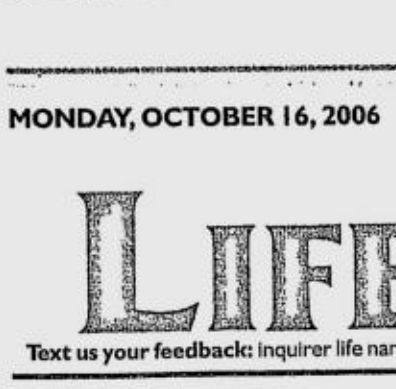
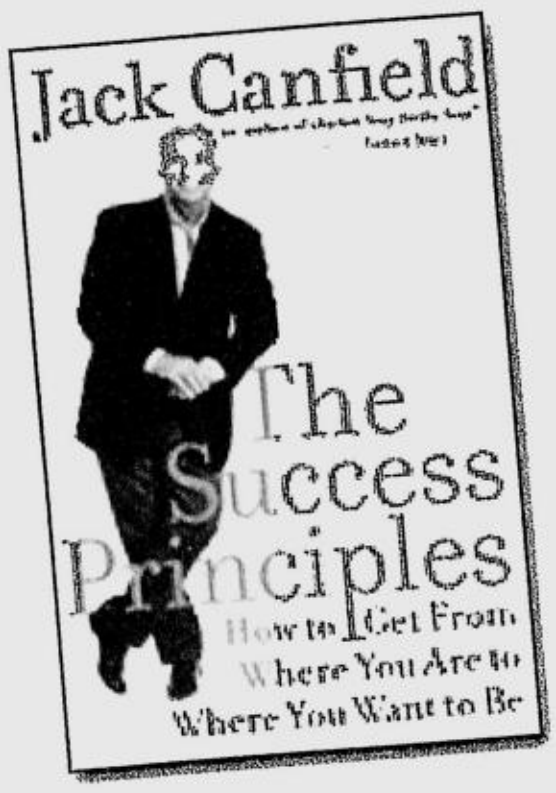
Coming after typhoon 'Milenyo,' the motivational author and speaker lifted Manila's storm-weary spirit





That 'Chicken Soup' guy, Jack Canfield

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

WHEN IT COMES TO MOtivating and inspiring people, one name comes to mind: Jack Canfield.

Patrons of the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series should be familiar with the name. Canfield, the originator and co-creator of the New York Times No. 1 best-selling series, is considered one of the world's leading experts in the development and maximization of the human potential.

Manila got a taste again of Canfield's knowledge and expertise recently when the Institute for Training and Development, in partnership with Jobstreet.com and PowerBooks, brought him back to the country for the second Mega Guru Event of the Year—the Personal Excellence and Organizational Success Summit—at the Crowne Plaza Galleria. The event drew more than 300 leaders of local businesses and organizations.

"The timing was right [in that] we just survived a very strong typhoon... we needed the inspiration," said ITD Center head Serely Alcaraz. "He's like a ray of sunshine. His presence just brightens up the room."

Dr. Peter Chee, president and CEO of ITD, explained the importance of bringing Canfield to the country.

"To be the best, you have to learn from the best," Chee said.

During the seminar, Canfield shared a few of the key strategies from his book "The Success Principles (How to Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be)," which has

THAT 'CHICKEN SOUP'/ E2

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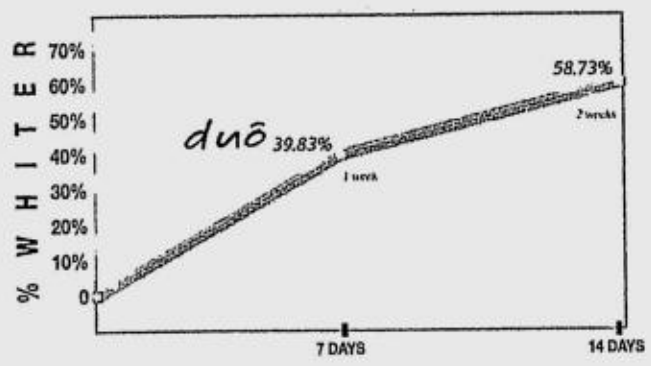

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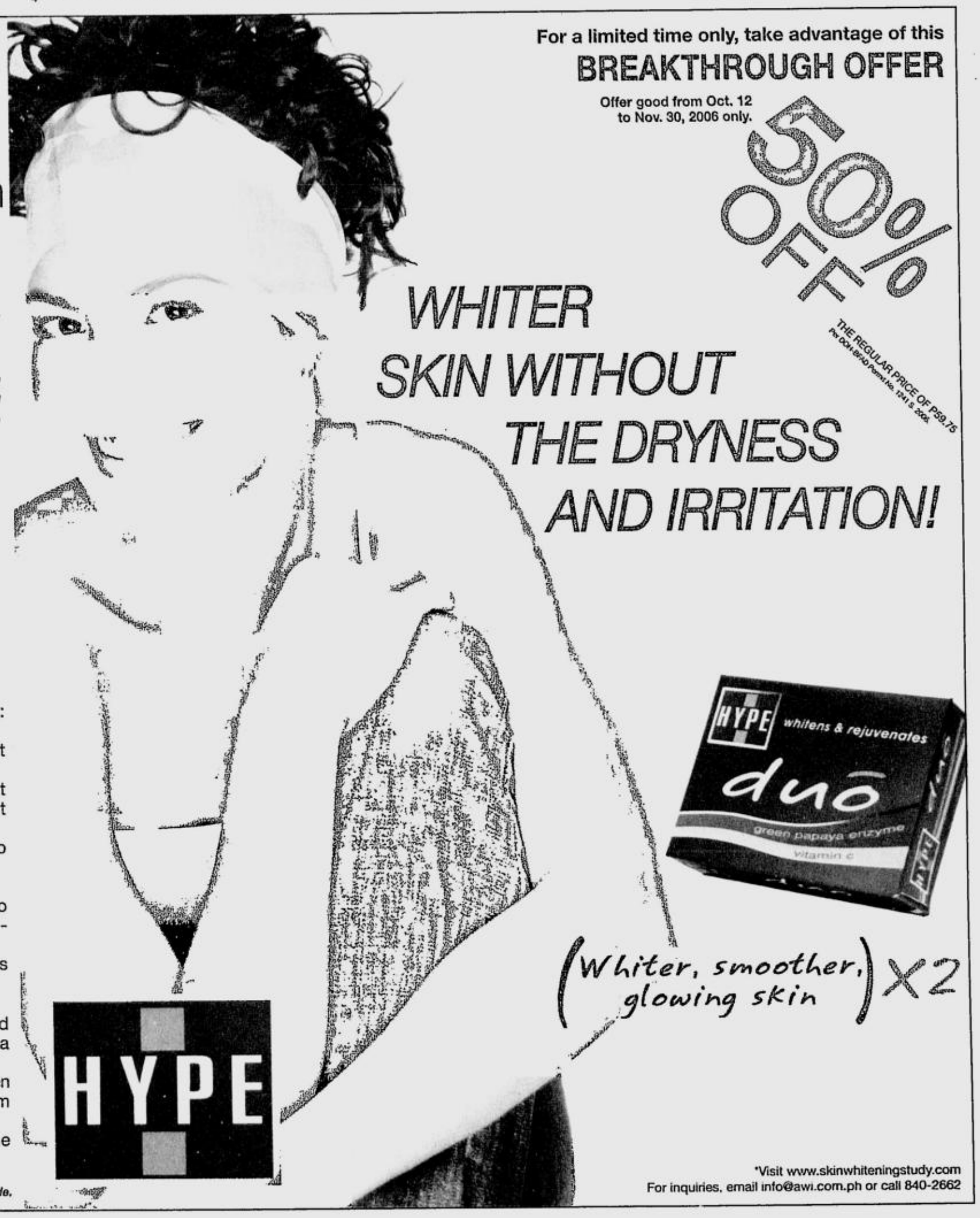

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FULLY BOOKED TOP 10 BESTSELLERS

1. "Fragile Things," by Neil Gaiman

A mysterious circus terrifies an audience during one extraordinary performance before disappearing into the night, taking one of the spectators along with it...

In a novella set two years after the events of "American Gods," "Shadow" pays a visit to an ancient Scottish mansion, and finds himself trapped in a game of murder and monsters...

In a Hugo Award-winning short story set in a strangely altered Victorian England, the great detective Sherlock Holmes must solve a most unsettling royal murder...

Two teenage boys crash a party and meet the girls of their dreams—and nightmares...

In a Locus Award-winning tale, the members of an exclusive epicurean club lament that they've eaten everything that can be eaten, with the exception of a legendary, rare, and exceedingly dangerous Egyptian bird...

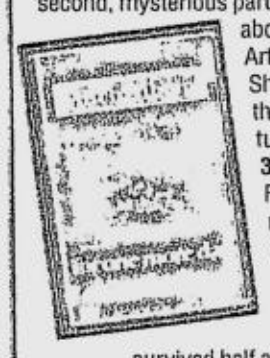
Such marvelous creations and more, including a short story set in the world of "The Matrix" and others set in the worlds of gothic fiction and children's fiction, can be found in this extraordinary collection, which showcases Neil Gaiman's storytelling brilliance.

2. "Artemis Fowl—The Lost Colony," by Eoin Colfer

Ten-thousand years ago, humans and fairies fought a great battle for the magical island of Ireland. When it became clear to the fairy families that they could never win, they decided to move their civilization underground and keep themselves hidden from the humans. All the fairy families agreed on this, except the eighth family, the demons. The demons planned to lift their small island out of time until they had regrouped and were ready to wage war on the humans once more. However, the time spell went wrong, and the island of Hybras was catapulted into Limbo, where it has remained for ten-thousand years.

Now the tainted time spell is deteriorating and demons are being sucked back into the present space and time. The fairy council is concerned about this and is monitoring any materializations. But when the spells deterioration accelerates, the materializations become unpredictable. Even the fairy scientists cannot figure out where the next demon will pop up.

But someone can. Artemis Fowl, teenage criminal mastermind, has solved temporal equations that no normal human should be intelligent enough to understand. So when a confused and frightened demon pops up in a Sicilian theater, "Artemis Fowl" is there to meet him. Unfortunately, he is not the only one. A second, mysterious party has also solved the temporal equations, and has managed to abduct the demon before Artemis can secure him. Once again, Artemis will have to pair up with his old comrade, Captain Holly Short, to track down the missing demon and rescue him, before the time spell dissolves completely and the lost demon colony returns violently to Earth.



3. "Love in the Time of Cholera," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Florentino Ariza has never forgotten his first love. He has waited nearly a lifetime in silence, since his beloved Fermina married another man. No woman can replace her in his heart. But now her husband is dead. Finally—after 51 years, nine months and four days—Florentino has another chance to declare his eternal passion and win her back. Will love that has survived half a century remain unrequited?

4. "One More Day," by Mitch Albom

For "One More Day" is the story of a mother and a son, and a relationship that covers a lifetime and beyond. It explores the question: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one?

What follows is the one "ordinary" day so many of us yearn for, a chance to make good with a lost parent, to explain the family secrets, and to seek forgiveness. Somewhere between this life and the next, Charley learns the astonishing things he never knew about his mother and her sacrifices. And he tries, with her tender guidance, to put the crumbled pieces of his life back together.

5. "Marie Antoinette: The Journey," by Antonia Fraser

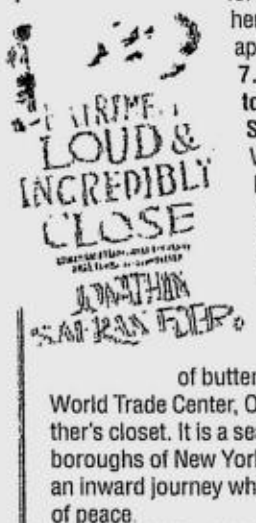
France's beleaguered queen, Marie Antoinette, wrongly accused of uttering the infamous "Let them eat cake," was the subject of ridicule and curiosity even before her death; she has since been the object of debate and speculation and the fascination so often accorded tragic figures in history. Married in mere girlhood, this essentially lighthearted, privileged, but otherwise unremarkable child was thrust into an unparalleled time and place, and was commanded by circumstance to play a significant role in history. Antonia Fraser's lavish and engaging portrait of Marie Antoinette, one of the most recognizable women in European history, excites compassion and regard for all aspects of her subject, immersing the reader not only in the coming-of-age of a graceful woman, but also in the unraveling of an era.

6. "For the Love of My Son," by Margaret Davis

This is the story of an ordinary woman whose grief—and love—for her only son compelled her to do something extraordinary. When Margaret Davis' beloved son Steven was murdered by his own wife, a Filipino former prostitute, she traveled across continents to track down her son's killers and bring them to justice, and to rescue her grandchildren. Based on Margaret's own diaries, notes and e-mails, this tells not only the awful but utterly compelling story of her perilous journey, but also of how she has dealt with her crippling grief, and how she has striven to save and protect two small children caught up in the violent crossfire of their parents' failing marriage. It is a tale of two cultures that clashed, with terrible results. And it is a tale of how one mother, faced with her worst nightmare, has fought for justice for her son and some kind of healing for herself and the others left behind after his appalling death.

7. "Geronimo Stilton #13: The Phantom of the Subway," by Geronimo Stilton

When he hears reports of a ghost haunting New Mouse City's subway tunnels, Geronimo sets out to investigate the story.



8. "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," by Jonathan Safran Foer

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is an inventor, amateur entomologist, Francophile, letter writer, pacifist, natural historian, percussionist, romantic, Great Explorer, jeweler, detective, vegan, and collector of butterflies. When his father is killed in the Sept. 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, Oskar sets out to solve the mystery of a key he discovers in his father's closet. It is a search which leads him into the lives of strangers, through the five boroughs of New York, into history, to the bombings of Dresden and Hiroshima, and on an inward journey which brings him ever closer to some kind of peace.

9. "A Good Year," by Peter Mayle

From Peter Mayle, a wonderful new novel steeped in wine heaven, Provence. This is luscious reading, soothing us with the sensual wonders of Provence while it tells a fascinating tale of the hugely lucrative and competitive boutique-wine trade. It is Peter Mayle's most satisfying, most delectable novel yet.

10. "Running with Scissors," by Augusten Burroughs

"Running with Scissors" is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her unorthodox psychiatrist who bore a striking resemblance to Santa Claus. So at the age of 12, Burroughs found himself amidst Victorian squalor living with the doctor's bizarre family, and befriending a pedophile who resided in the backyard shed. The story of an outlaw childhood where rules were unheard of, and the Christmas tree stayed up all year round, where Valium was consumed like candy, and if things got dull an electroshock-therapy machine could provide entertainment. The funny, harrowing and bestselling account of an ordinary boy's survival under the most extraordinary circumstances.

Fully Booked has branches at Rockwell Power Plant (tel. 7565001 to 04); Promenade, Greenhills (7244057); Gateway, Cubao (9134543); Mall of Asia (5560264); and The Block-SM North Edsa. E-mail: fb_rockwell@fullybookedonline.com.

CANFIELD autographs a book for INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (left), and pays a courtesy call on Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

That 'Chicken Soup' guy, Jack Canfield

From page E1

been hailed as the blueprint for living a life of expanded results, greater impact and more measurable on-the-job performance.

Quoting Brian Tracy, one of America's leading authorities on the development of human potential and personal effectiveness, Canfield said: "Life is like a combination lock. Your job is to find the right numbers, in the right order, so you can have anything you want."

Among the principles Canfield emphasized were taking total responsibility for one's life and results, having a clear idea of one's purpose, believing in one's self, taking action, and persistence.

"The principles always work if you work the principles," said the author.

21-cent dinner

But before all the success and the bestselling books, and before making it to the Guinness Book of World Records for having the most books on the New York Times Best-Seller List, Canfield used to survive on what he coined as the "21-cent dinners."

Wanting to help his parents, he worked as a swimming-pool lifeguard and at a florist's shop where his father also made his earnings. To pay for his rent and other expenses, Canfield feasted on spaghetti: 10-cent can of tomato paste, garlic salt, and water over an 11-cent bag of spaghetti noodles. It may not have been much but it was enough to keep him going.

WITH President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang

After graduate school, Canfield taught history in a Chicago high school where he met his mentor, W. Clement Stone, a self-made millionaire. Stone gave Canfield a job in his foundation where he was trained in the fundamental success principles that he still applies today.

Sharing the joy

Before leaving Manila, Canfield and the ITD group made a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. The visit was also graced by INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

Canfield also had small talk with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"He has very good things to say about us Filipinos," Alcaraz said. "He sees the joy in us that he said we must not lose."

For Bernardo Ople, Asian Regional Training and Development Organization International secretary general, "Jack Canfield has exceeded our expectations. He displayed great clarity, warmth and enthusiasm, which are vital elements in the pursuit of one's overarching goal. At 62, Jack is surprisingly agile, sharp and brilliant. His charisma is matched only by his stamina."

E-mail the author at dxmatilla@yahoo.com

Fellows named to writers' workshop

THE 6TH ATENEO NATIONAL WRITERS Workshop will be held Oct. 23-28. This year's fellows are Rhea Claire E. Madarang, Erica Clariz C. Delos Reyes and Hanna E. Zuela (poetry in Filipino); Xenia-Chloe Villanueva, Leonides C. Katigbak II and Alessandra Rose F. Miguel (poetry in English); Catherine Sanchez Bucu, April Camille Banzon and Christopher Cerda (short fiction in Filipino); Lui Jude B. Roldan, Ilia Eirene O. Uy and Marguerite de Leon (short fiction in English); and Debbie Ann Tan and Alfredo B. Diaz (one-act play).

Award-winning poets and fictionists will be the workshop's panelists: Alexis Abola, Rosy May Bayuga, Rofel Brion, Ronan Capinding, Michael Coroza, Marjorie Evasco, Alwynn Javier, Angelo Lacuesta, Susan Lara, Marco Lopez, Allan Popa, Jerry Respeto, Jun Cruz Reyes, Edgar Samar, Benilda Santos, Alvin Yapan and Larry Ypil.

The workshop is organized by the Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices headed by Benilda Santos, with the help of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts.

Deadline for essay-writing tilt extended to Nov. 15

THE FIRST-EVER NATIONAL Essay Writing Contest jointly organized by the Philippine Graphic News Weekly Magazine and entrepreneurship and leadership organization Junior Chamber International Philippines or Philippine Jaycees has extended its deadline from the original Oct. 15 to Nov. 15.

The extension aims to accommodate entries coming in from the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

The contest is endorsed by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, and is supported by Chowking, Coca-Cola, PowerBooks, Fortune Insurance Group, Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation, and the Offices of Sen. Pia Cayetano and Rep. Gilbert Remulla.

The contest has three categories—high school, college and professional—and takes the theme, "The Brotherhood of Man Transcends the Sovereignty of Nations."

The tilt requires entrants to submit a 700- to 800-word essay on the said theme, which should be encoded in short bond paper using point 12 Times New Roman or Arial font. The name of the author or any identifying marks must not be found in the entry. Essays should be submitted in five copies, enclosed in a short brown envelope and sent to: The Board of Judges, Philippine Graphic-Philippine Jaycees National Essay Writing Contest, 3/F Dominga III Bldg., Dela Rosa corner Pasong Tamo, Makati 1233.

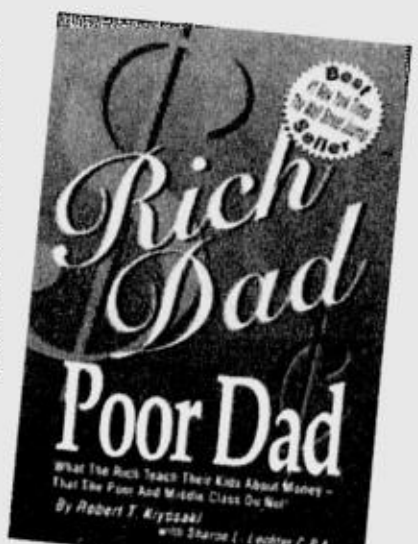
Entry forms may be obtained from the weekly issues of Philippine Graphic and the Monday issues of Business Mirror.

Call 8140134.

Nonfiction bestsellers from PowerBooks

'Rich Dad, Poor Dad,' by Robert Kiyosaki

Robert Kiyosaki developed his unique economic perspective through exposure to a pair of disparate influences: his own highly educated but fiscally unstable father, and the multimillionaire eighth-grade dropout father of his closest friend. The lifelong monetary problems experienced by his "poor dad" (whose weekly paychecks, while respectable, were never quite sufficient to meet family needs) pounded home the counterpoint communicated by his "rich dad" (that "the poor and the middle class work for money," but "the rich have money work for them").



'The 48 Laws of Power,' by Robert Greene

Greene and Elffers have created an heir to Machiavelli's "Prince," espousing principles such as, everyone wants more power; emotions, including love, are detrimental; deceit and manipulation are life's paramount tools. Anyone striving for psychological health will be put off at the start, but the authors counter, saying "honesty is indeed a power strategy," and "genuinely innocent people may still be playing for power." Amoral or immoral, this compendium aims to guide those who embrace power as a ruthless game, and will entertain the rest.

'The Elements of Style,' by William Strunk, E. B. White; Roger Angell (foreword)

Asserting that one must first know the rules to break them, this classic reference book is a must-have for any student and conscientious writer. Intended for use in which the practice of composition is combined with the study of literature, it gives in brief space the principal requirements of plain English style and concentrates attention on the rules of usage and principles of composition most commonly violated.

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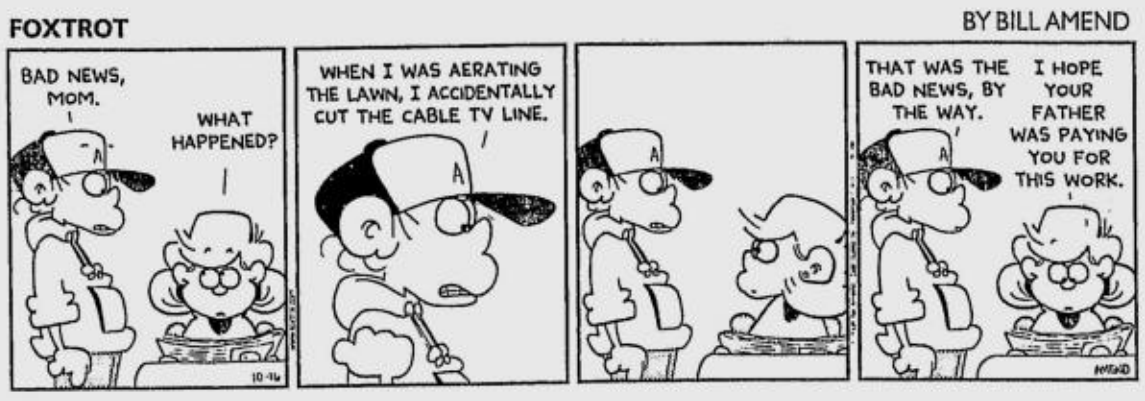
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND



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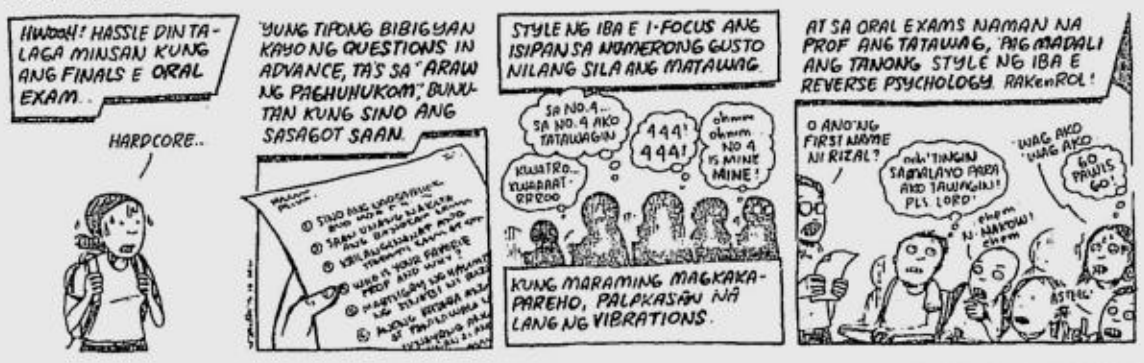

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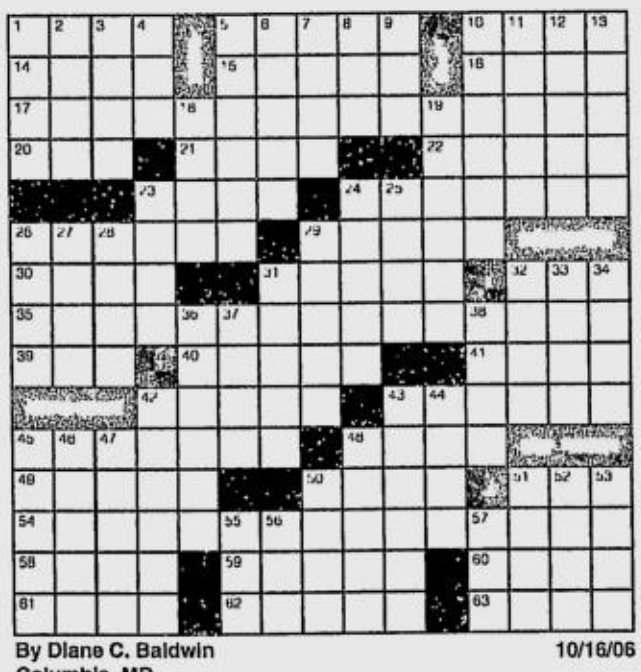

By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

10/16/06

ACROSS
1 Stare goggle-eyed
5 Granny's wrap
10 Type of shark
14 Mystique
15 Not a chance!
16 Tree of Knowledge site
17 Keeps sharp
20 Dad
21 Christmas in France
22 Haggard or Oberon
23 Unclear
24 Most reasonable
26 Assert without proof
29 Gets grimy
30 Suds order
31 Chopin piece
32 Small ruckus
35 Survives a crisis
39 Ultimate act
40 Bestow upon
41 Focal points
42 Little fragment
43 Party platform elements
45 Orient
48 English bloke
49 Letter-shaped girder
50 What a pity!
51 Kind of pot or bag
54 Acts mulish
58 Improve on a draft
59 Bones in forearms
60 Jagged cut
61 Minus
62 Noggins
63 "Riders of the Purple Sage" author

DOWN
1 Huff and puff
2 NASCAR word
3 Present packaging
4 Remuneration
5 Forty winks
6 Sweetheart
7 G.I. on the lam
8 Pallid
9 Strong alkali
10 Taxi devices
11 Dote on
12 Sailboat features
13 Early stage
18 Hang-up
19 Mugs for the camera
23 Bunch of buffalo
24 Discovered
25 Right-hand man
26 Up to the job
27 Wiry
28 Advance
29 Bundle-of-joy bird
31 Put into law
32 Ages and ages and ages
33 Poop, e.g.
34 Soul singer Redding
36 Meat for heroes?
37 Hasn't paid up
38 Hubbub
42 Thanksgiving celebrations
43 Moon periods
44 Wield a whip
45 Cuba's Castro
46 Put up with
47 Television host Philbin
48 Spotless
50 "The King and I" heroine
51 Go at a gallop
52 Ultimatum word
53 Soot-covered
55 Gist
56 Fiesta shout
57 Faberge creation

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	R	O	K	E	T	H	E	I	C	E		T	S	E
L	E	V	E	L	H	E	A	D	E	D		O	L	D
O	P	E	N	S	E	C	R	E	T	S		L	O	B
O	A	R		E	T	H	N	O		S	E	V	E	
M	I	N	E		A	T	E		C	R	U	D	E	R
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G	R	E	E	L	E	Y		S	T	U	R	G	E	S
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10/16/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong sense of justice. You will always fight for the underdog. You're broad-minded, intelligent and kind. Furthermore, you walk your talk. You're involved in society, and frequently advocate reform and improvements around you. You're imaginative, but you're also practical. Give yourself enough time and space to learn something very valuable this year.
Birthdate of: Suzanne Somers, actress; Kellie Martin, actress; Tim Robbins, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Despite yesterday's confusion, today is now the time to discuss long-range plans about shared property. You're thinking clearly once again. (Thank goodness.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Sit down with a partner or close friend to discuss practical solutions for the future. You want to know you have a sure thing at hand. Today you have the patience to consider every angle.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In contrast to yesterday, today you can accomplish much at work. Not only are you willing to work at routine tasks, you have the energy to follow through and get things done.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Parents might discuss their financial and personal obligations for children. Romantic partners can also have practical, productive discussions about the future.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are in an orderly state of mind today. Self-discipline comes easily. You're not interested in idealistic speculations; you want to deal with the hard facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): When shopping today, you're only interested in durable, long-lasting items. You want value for your money. You don't feel frivolous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Whatever you do today will be done with care and attention to detail. You have a serious attitude toward everything. You might give someone advice, or someone older might give you advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your best bet today is to work alone or to work behind the scenes. You're willing to do a lot, but you need privacy, focus and a minimum of interruptions from others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Listen carefully to advice from someone older or more experienced than you. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Bosses, parents and VIPs are impressed with you! You're willing to listen to advice; furthermore, you're willing to give it as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day to make long-range plans concerning publishing, the media, going back to school and anything having to do with education and travel. You see what needs to be done.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Regardless of what past confusion existed with respect to shared property, today is a good day to tackle this kind of thing. You want a clear understanding of what is expected from you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		4				5		
	1			4	6	7		9
6				3		5		7
	9	1		8		2	6	7
	6						8	
	7	5		6		3	2	4
3				9		8		6
	8			5	3	1		2
		7					8	

Difficulty Level ★

10/16

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	9	6	5	2	3	8	4
3	8	6	4	1	9	7	5	2
4	5	2	3	7	8	1	9	6
9	4	8	7	2	6	5	1	3
6	1	5	9	8	3	4	2	7
2	3	7	5	4	1	9	6	8
7	9	1	2	6	4	8	3	5
5	2	3	8	9	7	6	4	1
8	6	4	1	3	5	2	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Mag goes bag-crazy

BAG ADDICTS, UNITE! READ UP on the latest bag designs in the October issue of Metro Magazine—from the Hermés Birkin to the Fendi Spy, from the LV Papillon to local bag designs. Check out the world's most expensive designer bags—how to buy them as investments, and how to tell a fake from the genuine article.

Also read one woman's experience on breast implants, and how they may have been related to her breast cancer.

Feast your eyes on hot knits and drop-dead dresses, and find out how to eat to combat wrinkles, how to get great abs, and how to wear colors, whatever your age.

Bessie Badilla gives a heartfelt interview on life after widowhood.

Angel Locsin is cover girl.

Get a chance to win over P400,000 in prizes in the Metro Top Model Search or a vacation trip to Palawan in Metro's subscription promo.

The October issue of Metro is available nationwide.

Focus on Kenneth Cobonpue

Meanwhile, in the latest issue of Metro Home & Entertaining, read about internationally acclaimed furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue and what inspires him.

See the interiors of the studios of Manila's top photographers Ronnie Salvacion and Frank Hoefsmit.

Learn stylish expressions for tiles, doors and mirrors.

Also witness seven exquisite parties thrown by the metro's most interesting hosts—and guess who were invited.

Metro Home & Entertaining is available nationwide.

Book on Leyte history

TO MARK THE 62ND ANNIVERsary of the Leyte Landing of the Allied Forces during World War II, New Day Publishers will release "The Colonial Odyssey of Leyte (1521-1914)," by professor Rolando O. Borrinaga and Fr. Cantius J. Kobak, OFM, on Oct. 27 at the 27th National Conference on Local and National History of the Philippine National Historical Society at the Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City.

The 328-page book is an English translation of the general history chapters of "Reseña de la Provincia de Leyte" by Spanish-Filipino historian and writer Manuel Artigas y Cuerva, originally published in 1914.

The original Spanish text is a trailblazing work and is believed to be the country's earliest local history on Leyte and the Visayas.

Borrinaga is co-founder of the Internet-based multinational Balangiga Research Group, which continues to unearth and reconstruct the historic events surrounding the Balangiga Conflict in 1901.

The late Father Kobak is a Polish-born American Franciscan priest who served for 30 years in the Philippines, 10 of them in the Leyte-Samar region as educator, curator and researcher on Visayan history and culture. He spent some 22 years in securing the full manuscript of Artigas' Reseña.

Bernardita Reyes Churchill, president of the Philippine National Historical Society, said the book will help provide a more equitable content of Philippine regional historiography, which is still focused on "Imperial Manila."

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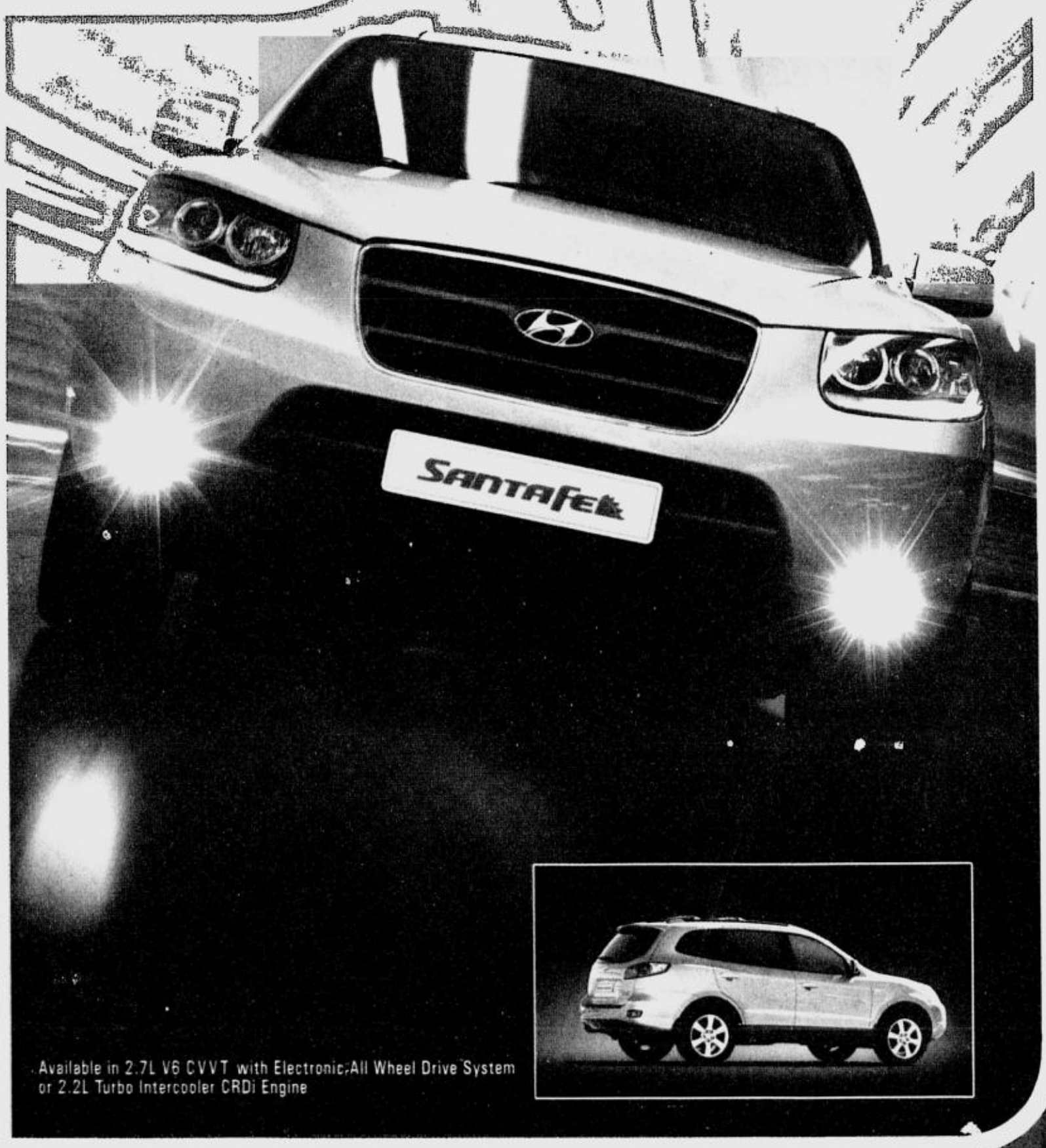

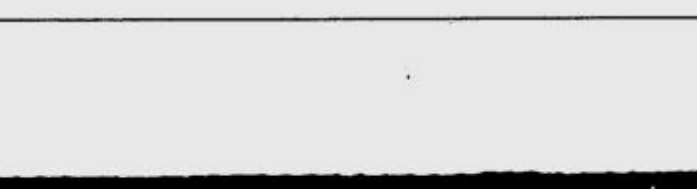

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The Starex PRO-Series is the largest among its competitors, offering greater length, width, height and wheelbase, with a maximum possible seating capacity of 18 people. All this adds up to greater cargo carrying capacity with a more useable space, a more stable and refined cruiser to transport high-value goods with greater security and confidence, and as a bonus, a more comfortable ride for its passengers.

The Starex PRO-Series has luxurious and modern power: steering, windows and door locks, more than what most competitors have. To further distance itself from the competition, the front and rear bumpers are color keyed to match the rest of the body, adding a sense of class and luxury to what is otherwise your willing workhorse. A cassette player with AM/FM radio keeps you entertained for those long and lonely out-of-town journeys or through the most tedious and testing of traffic jams

The comfortable front driver's seats allow for comfortable reclining adjustment should you find yourself weary from the day's work. There's also steering rake adjustment, so both tall and average drivers have a refreshing driving position that doesn't wear you out over the course of an entire day's worth of driving, and a proper tachometer to ensure you don't overdrive your precious business asset.

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The rear cargo hold is spacious enough to load up just about anything that your business requires: loads and loads of balikbayan-boxes, large items like a shipping pallet, expensive household fixtures, furniture and appliances, fresh, high-value produce and foodstuff, or even as a utility carrier shuttle service for companies with multiple logistical operations, an airport shuttle service or a deluxe tourist coach to view scenic Philippines. And thanks to the twin rear swing gate which allows for a wider opening. Getting people and cargo in and out of the rear isn't a problem.

You can do it all while being comfortably in command of the situation. Thanks to the Starex PRO-Series. You can make it big in your business!

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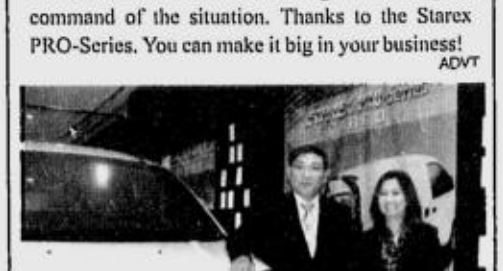


ENTERTAINMENT

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/messa) an ill us nt@inquirer.com.ph

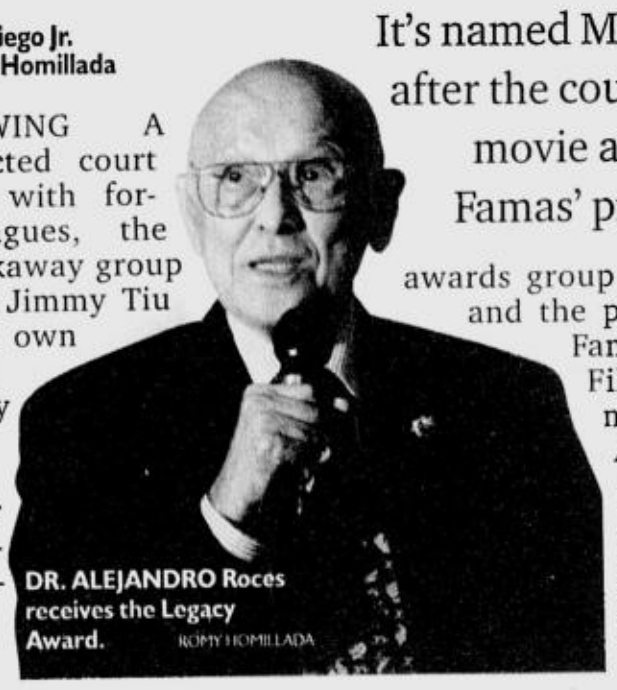
Famas splinter group gives out own awards

"DUBAI" stars Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz get the top plum.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Romy Homillada

It's named Maria Clara, after the country's first movie awards and Famas' predecessor

FOLLOWING A protracted court battle with former colleagues, the Famas breakaway group led by Col. Jimmy Tiu sets up its own awards-giving body named Maria Clara, after the country's pioneering movie awards group in the 1950s and the predecessor of Famas (or the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences).



DR. ALEJANDRO Roces receives the Legacy Award. ROMY HOMILLADA

The 2006 Maria Clara Awards was held on Oct. 13 at the Golden Fortune Seafood Restaurant in Ermita, Manila, according to its president Tiu.

Regal Films' "Blue Moon" was declared Best Picture, with its director Joel Lamangan topping the filmmakers' category.

Lead acting prizes went to the stars of "Dubai": Claudine Barretto and Aga Muhlach.

John Lloyd Cruz, Barretto and Muhlach's co-star in "Dubai," led the Best Supporting Actor race, while Hilda Koronel won Best Supporting Actress for "Nasaan Ka Man."

"Eat Bulaga" mainstay BJ "Tolits" Forbes won Best Child Performer for "Exodus."

None of the major winners were present at the awards ceremony last Friday.

Barretto, who was taping a soap opera with Piolo Pascual ("Walang Kapalit") in Tagaytay, sent her message to INQUIRER Entertainment, via SMS: "My sincerest gratitude to the people behind Maria Clara. This award inspires me more to improve in my craft."

Lamangan was also unable to personally accept his award because he was shooting

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Hollywood outfit to finance local films

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST RULES. we are looking for a story set in the Philippines about the Philippines," declared Timm Doolen, head of the script committee tasked to choose films that would receive incentives from Bigfoot Entertainment.

The Cebu-based Hollywood production outfit has announced that it is willing to finance or co-produce films with "Filipino concept and English script" for as much as $100,000 to $2 million.

Doolen, Bigfoot's director of creative development, will head the five-member panel. The committee will be composed of Bigfoot story editor Marissa Engel, chief operating officer Matt Lubetich, chief executive officer Kacy Andrews and marketing head Ricky Lopez, said Doolen in a recent phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment.

Dooleen added that the committee decided not to draw up a set of guidelines so as "not to censor the creative thinking" of our local writers and filmmakers. He pointed out that the committee "doesn't want to encumber them too much."

What is important, said Doolen, is for the movie to be relatively easy to shoot here in the Philippines. "Meaning it should not be scripts about outer space, aliens, violently erupting volcanoes or huge airplane chases," Doolen explained. "The genre is not important but the budget is. They should also keep the budget in mind."

He added: "It has to have an international appeal. At the end of the day, it's about making and selling movies. It would be good for the Philippines if the films could be sold abroad."

Doolen, who headed the production team of the Hollywood film "Catch Me If You Can," also took notice of the Filipino film industry's tendency to cater only to its audience in Metro Manila. "I have nothing against this practice because this is also done in countries like Germany, France and Belgium," he pointed out. "But I believe that Filipino films would be more effective if filmmakers also give consideration to audience in other parts of the world."

His suggestion: "Include one character, possibly a foreigner, in your movie that could help provide a different perspective to your audience. If this would be the case, you would now have to explain what a jeepney is, or why people here eat *balut* or *adobo*. Your film would take on an entirely different point of view."

Bigfoot recently entered into a partnership with the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) to develop a structure to define the working parameters for finding the right film.

"But our group has yet to discuss this with the FDCP," said Doolen. "We don't have the exact criteria yet. But when we decide which films to produce, we consider four factors: story, character, theme and marketability."

The pledged fund is not limited to movies and could also be used for music videos and documentaries. Bigfoot has already partially funded and/or fully produced the films "3 Needles" (Thom Fitzgerald), "Shanghai Kiss" (Kern Konwiser and David Ren), "The Curiosity of Chance" (Tad Hilgenbrinck, Brett Chukerman and Russell P. Marleau) and the documentary "USS Cooper: The Return to Ormoc Bay" (Daniel Foster).

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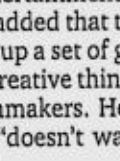
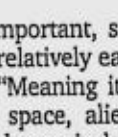


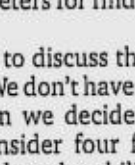
"In as early as a month, I noticed the lightening of the spots on my skin.

Benita Vinluan, a 38-year old housewife, Pynocare user for 1 year and 2 months, Pasig



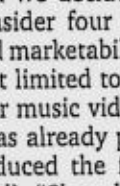
" In just after a week of usage twice a day, I noticed the dark blotches started to lighten."

Flordeliza Pamplona, a 48-year old housewife, Pynocare user for 1 year and 3 months, Manila



"The changes I have seen on my face have convinced me to continue using Pynocare."

Rossana Ocampo, a 46-year old housewife, Pynocare user for 1 year and 4 months, Baguio



"I am using Pynocare, I am satisfied with the lightening and reduction."

Joyce Fukuda, 44 - year old golfer, Pynocare user for 11 months, Pampanga

"In as early as 2 weeks, I noticed that my pekas started to lighten."

Bernadette Suarez, 47-year old Sales Agent, Pynocare user for 10 months, Cebu City

"Since I started using Pynocare, I've noticed my cheeks have cleared up considerably."

Adela Pasicolan, a 34-year old Assistant Bank Manager, Pynocare user for 10 months, Davao City

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Directed by
Justin Lin

OPENS OCTOBER 18

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2 MY FIRST WEDDING
3 THE DEPARTED
4 OPEN SEASON
5 BARNYARD
6 DEAD OR ALIVE/ WWE
PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED
CENTERSTAGE
THE GUARDIAN
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THE GUARDIAN
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THE DEPARTED
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2 TILL I MET YOU
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4 THE DEPARTED
5 BARNYARD
6 THE BREED
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 FIRST DAY HIGH
10 MY FIRST WEDDING
11 PULSE
12 THE DEPARTED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
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10 DEAD OR ALIVE
11 TILL I MET YOU
12 FLY BOYS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
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2 OPEN SEASON
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5 TILL I MET YOU
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7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 DEAD OR ALIVE
9 THE BREED
10 BARNYARD

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
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3 MY FIRST WEDDING
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5 TILL I MET YOU
6 TILL I MET YOU

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3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 BARNYARD
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 MY FIRST WEDDING
8 PULSE
9 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 MY FIRST WEDDING
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE DEPARTED
5 BARNYARD
6 STEP UP
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 OPEN SEASON
10 PULSE
11 TILL I MET YOU
12 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4233201-04
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 STEP UP

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2 TILL I MET YOU
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4 PULSE

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5 TILL I MET YOU
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1 FLY BOYS
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU

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1 WICKER MAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

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1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 SCOOP
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

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2 TILL I MET YOU
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2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU

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SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 FLY BOY
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BREED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREED
2 RESERVE
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 RESERVED
8 FLY BOYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE DEPARTED
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 FLY BOYS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
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PULSE :30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50	THE DEPARTED 12:[illegible] :30 [illegible]	TILL I MET YOU 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40	
MY FIRST WEDDING 10 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	BARNYARD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	DEAD OR ALIVE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 TALLADEGA NIGHTS 7:00, 9:30	THE GUARDIAN 12:30 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

MALL 5

TILL I MET YOU 12:10 R3 / 1:45 [illegible]	THE GUARDIAN 12 [illegible] 22 10 / 8:00	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:00 R3 35 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
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ROMY HOMILLADA

Famas splinter group ...

From page F1

the movie "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" in Laguna. Nevertheless, he gave this statement to the INQUIRER in a phone interview: "What else can I say but thank you. I am very grateful for this recognition."

Tiu admitted that the stars' non-attendance was due to their group's insufficient preparation time. "We only had three days to invite the winners. It was short notice."

Other winners are: Screenplay, Ricky Lee and Shaira Mella Salvador ("Dubai"); Story, Allan Tijamo ("Blue Moon"); Cinematography, Lyle Sacris ("Blue Moon"); Editing, Marya Ignacio ("Dubai"); Sound, Arnold Reodica ("Dubai"); Musical Score, Jesse Lucas ("Can This Be Love"); Theme Song, "Blue Moon"; Production Design, Richard Somes ("Exodus"); Special Effects, Imaginary Friends ("Enteng Kabisote 2"); Visual Effects, Ignite Media ("Exodus").

Special awards were accorded to President Macapagal-Arroyo (Monumental Achievement Award), Manoling Morato (Achievement for Value Formation in Cinema and Television), Donna Villa (Dr. Jose Perez Memorial Award) and Dr. Alejandro Roces (Legacy Award).

Except for the President, all the special award honorees were present.

According to Tiu, "Dr. Roces, the father of the original Maria Clara awards, allowed us to use the name and continue the legacy of the country's first movie awards."

Art Padua, current Famas president, insisted that the people behind Maria Clara are "expelled, AWOL and resigned members of Famas."

But Padua told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he had no plans of stopping the Maria Clara by filing a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), "like Tiu did, the reason why Famas didn't push through on July 15."

"I have nothing to do with Maria Clara," Padua said. He added that he would rather focus on mounting the Famas awards show in the third week of November.

"We are considering two possible venues. We are also eyeing a co-production deal with a TV network," he said.

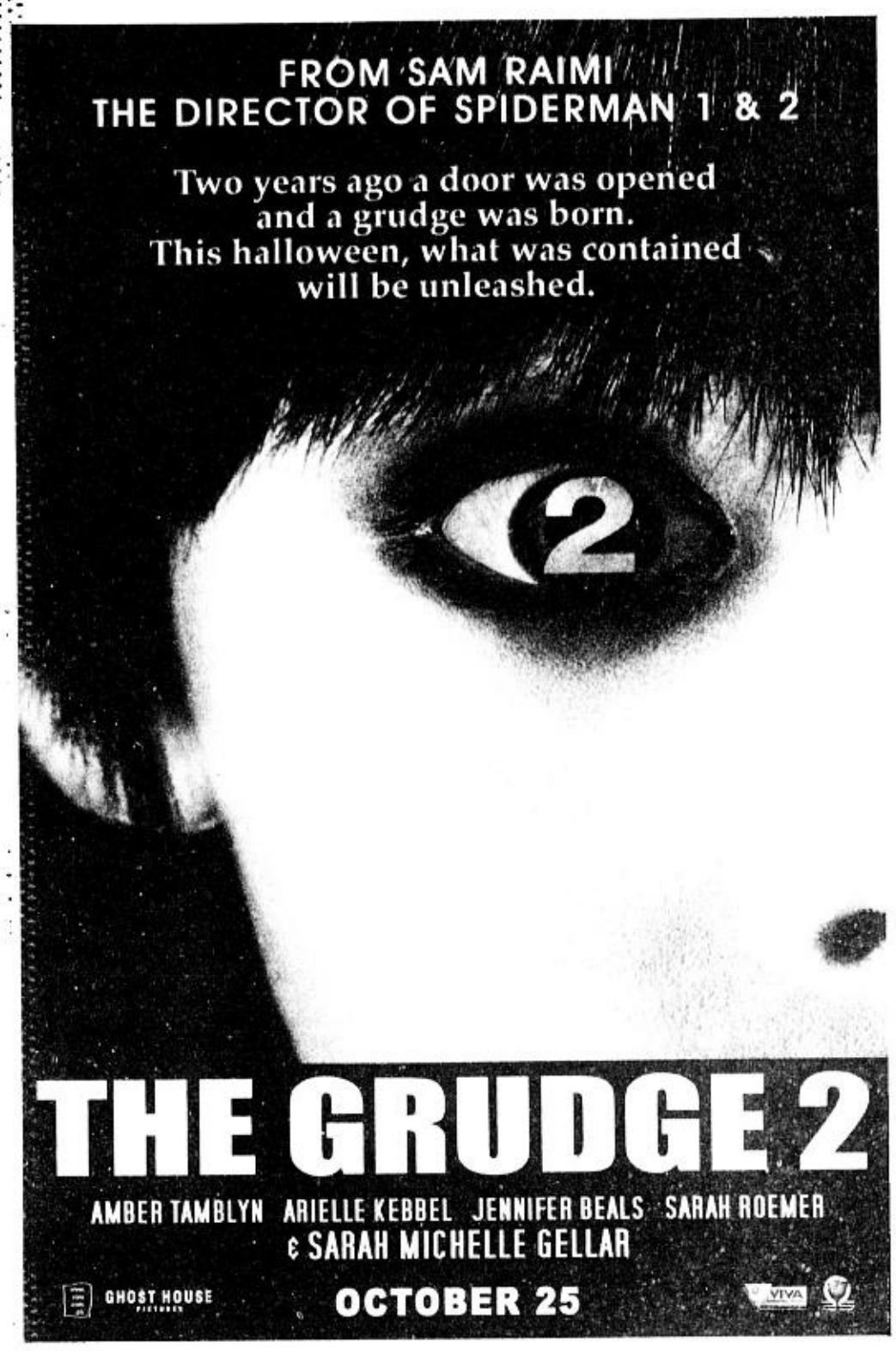
DID YOU KNOW...

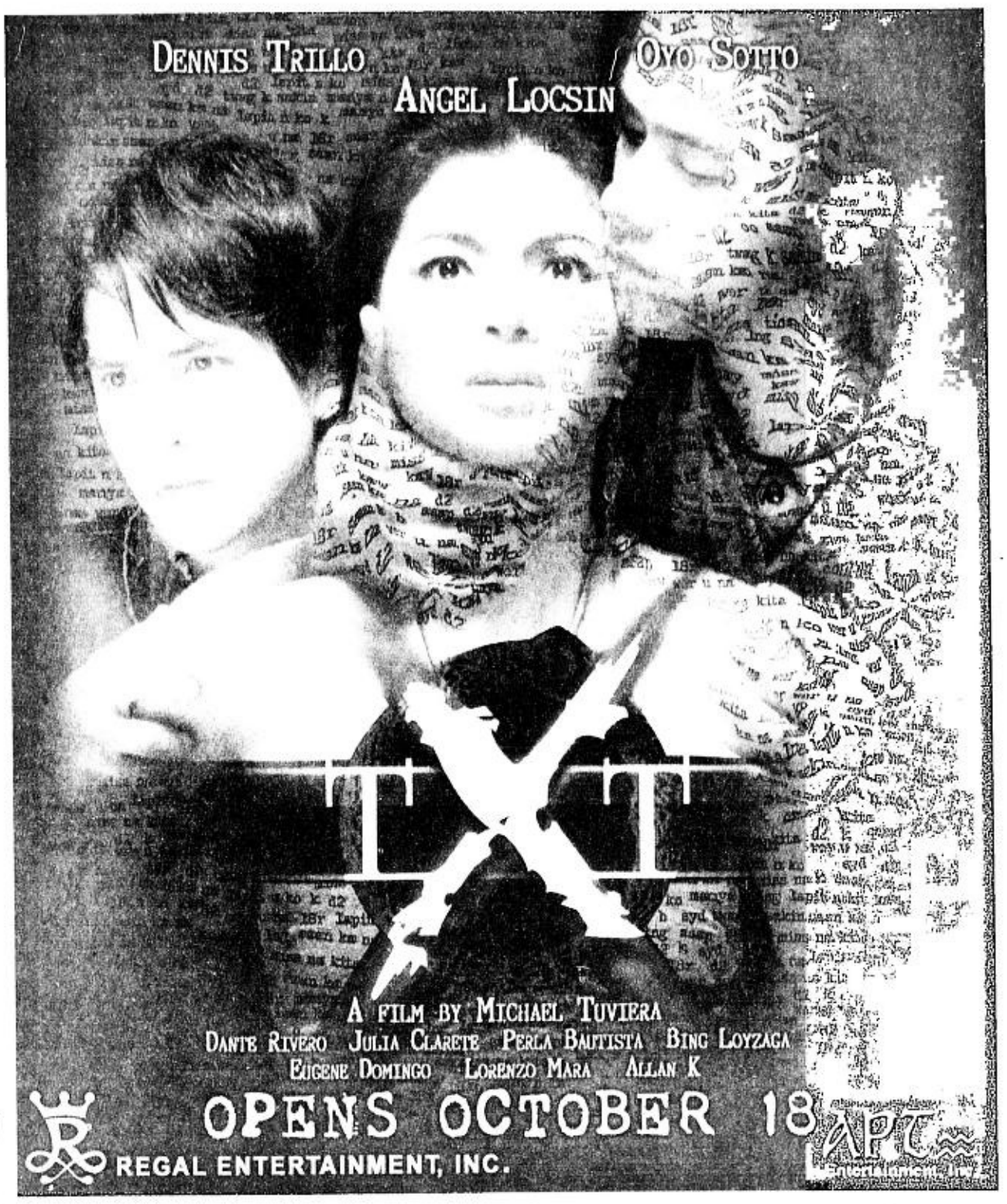
'Dallas' axes cast

LOS ANGELES—FILMING FOR A MOVIE VERSION OF THE HIT 1970S soap opera "Dallas" has been delayed after a decision to scrap most of the cast, Variety reported here Friday.

While John Travolta is still oil-baron arch-villain J.R. Ewing, stars Shirley MacLaine, Meg Ryan and Luke Wilson are no longer in, Variety reported.

Shooting had been due to get underway in November. *AFP*





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The stretch marks show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT "BITUING WALANG Ningning" has finally faded to black on our TV screens, we can more objectively and comprehensively evaluate its long run on ABS-CBN.

First conclusion: It's downright amazing how the people behind the show were able to stretch its slim movie story into a months-long drama series, full of emotional highs and lows, dramatic twists and turns, and melodramatic tics and schticks at every turn.

The result of all that stretching was sometimes discombobulating, however. Characters ended up contradicting their initial nature, the struggle between good and evil became too ferocious for words, and performances were either insufficient or over-the-top.

Most insufficient of all was **Sarah Geronimo's** portrayal of the series' lead ingenue, Dorina. Sarah is a good singer, but she wasn't able to make her character dramatically compelling and empathetic, opting instead to play her as a weeping victim practically from beginning to end.

At the other, over-the-top end, the show was able to do the seemingly impossible—make a bad actress out of the much-admired **Amy Austria**.

The fine thespian was cast as the mother of Dorina's rival, Lavinia, and was required to do such dastardly things that believability flew out of the window.

Would you believe, Amy's character was even shown smashing the hand of another daughter, so she would no longer be able to do what she loved most—play the guitar? What an incredible virago!

The series' final week was a major caution. It was filled with so many dramatic and musical highlights that the overwhelmed viewer felt like switching off and tuning out.

The death scene of **Ai-Ai de las Alas'** character was especially "over": She was shown moving her hand up and down Sarah's arm for the longest time, and then the movement stopped, Sarah clasped Ai-Ai's hand, and she and the viewers "realized" that Ai-Ai's character had expired.

The long moment was meant to be beautiful, artistic and delicately heartbreaking, but it was too self-consciously staged, so it came off as a big, "TH" disappointment. *When* will our TV "artists" truly understand that less *is* more?

"Bituing Walang Ningning," the movie, was no great shakes as an authentically moving musical drama, but its TV spin-off was so lush that the original film now looks much better in comparison.

That's what happens when TV "artists" stretch and embellish a movie almost beyond recognition, adding too many "highlights" because each day's installment has to have a series of big, melodramatic highs, which cumulatively ends up—as a big letdown.

Revisionist take

From acclaimed young director **Sofia Coppola** comes a contemporary movie about a famous queen—"Marie Antoinette," starring **Kirsten Dunst.**

Often maligned and passionately debated on, the queen emerges in Coppola's film neither as a villain nor a regal idol, but as a confused and lovely teenage outsider thrust against her will into a decadent world on the brink of disaster.

To be shown exclusively at Ayala Mall cinemas, the film shows the naïve girl at age 14, being betrothed to King Louis XVI (**Jason Schwartzman**). Eventually, she rebels against the isolated world of Versailles, and becomes France's most misunderstood monarch.

'Tipon'

On Oct. 19, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila opens the exhibit, "Tipon: Artists Organizing," featuring works of Anting-Anting, Davao Artists Foundation, Ang Ink, Luna Art Collective, Pampanga Arts Guild and Produksyon Tramontina. **Brenda Fajardo** and **Bobi Valenzuela** are the exhibit's curators.

'Open Season'

Sony Pictures Animation has come up with its first feature film—the animated action adventure comedy, "Open Season," about a domesticated grizzly bear who "visits" the great outdoors—and gets much more than he bargained for.

The film's voice cast includes **Martin Lawrence** as Boog, the bear, and **Ashton Kutcher** as Elliot, the fast-talking mule deer who lured him out of his cozy home in the first place.

Tribute to women

SPIN CITY

MANOMANO RE-INTRODUCES funk in the alternative scene with their 11-track debut album "Ladies First."

The band pays tribute to women with songs that tackle relationships, women's issues, moods, changes and other female-related stuff.

The album includes "Nene," a song about a down-and-out girl who turns to stripping.

It also includes the head bobbing tune "Maria," the visually poignant "Lason," the Pinoy pop rap "Mannequin," the dance tunes "Ate" and "Heaven," the dark sound of "Blade" and easy rhythm "Playground."

Vocalist Mano Sunico leads the band with Miko Cabreros (bass), Wendell "Deloi" Ypil (lead guitars), Cesar "Zaryo" de los Santos (drums) and Jeremy Mallorca (keyboards).

MANOMANO

The album is now out in CDs released under Sony-BMG Music Entertainment.

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2 TILL I MET YOU 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
4 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40
5 THE GUARDIAN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
6 TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 BARNYARD 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
8 PULSE 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
9 STEP UP 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 MY FIRST WEDDING 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

ERMITA

1 TILL I MET YOU 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 BARNYARD 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
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5 THE DEPARTED 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
6 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview
7 THE GUARDIAN 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST

1 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview
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3 THE DEPARTED 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
4 BARNYARD 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
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7 THE GUARDIAN 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

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1 TILL I MET YOU
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 POSSESSED BY EVIL
3 THE BREED
4 TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE / BARNYARD
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 OPEN SEASON / THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DESCENT
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 566.6771
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Pandan) tel (044) 765 3320
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 FLY BOYS
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 NAKED EYE
3 PERLAS
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 WILD ORCHIDS
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 THE GUARDIAN
Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 TILL I MET YOU
Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 DOS EKIS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

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CINEMA 1: MY FIRST WEDDING 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00 PG13
CINEMA 2: OPEN SEASON // THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:10, 1:05, 3:00 // 4:55, 7:00, 9:00 GP//R18
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a diversionment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3: THE BARNYARD 11:20, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10 GP
CINEMA 4: TILL I MET YOU 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 PG-13
CINEMA 5: THE GUARDIAN 10:40, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT. 20 & 21, 2006 — GARY V. @ 23 "THE REPEAT" — 8:30 PM
OCT. 28, 2006 — BOBBY SOUL — 8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY — DANCE NIGHT — 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY — CERRUDO CLASSICO — 8:00PM
OCT. 19, 26, 2006 — ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA — 8:30 PM
OCT. 21, 2006 — AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO — 6:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

ROUNDUP

Rolling Stones on NGC

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL'S "INside" shows the Rolling Stones as the group kicks off Rio de Janeiro's carnival with a free concert for an estimated 1.5 million people.

Viewers can have a rare peek behind the curtain to share a few intimate moments with rock legends Sir Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts.

One of the world's most enduring rock bands gives the performance of their lives on the sun-drenched shores of Brazil's most famous beach.

The episode airs on Oct. 23, 9 p.m.

'The Royal Wedding'

THE VIDEO SEQUEL "THE PRINCE & ME 2: The Royal Wedding" continues the story of the 2003 fantasy romance movie "The Prince & Me."

Prince Edward (Luke Mably) and Paige (Kam Heskin) are just weeks away from the big day.

All things are going on as planned until a conniving royal named Albert (Jim Holt) finds a centuries-old Danish law that forbids the ascension to king if the prince were to marry a non-royal.

The video is available in DVD and VCD at video stores nationwide.

MTRCB ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WEDDING ADVISORY: A MUST-SEE MOVIE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED SOON.
The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you 'NOTTING HILL'!
To Win Her Heart, He Must Come Up with the Perfect Disguise.
RACHAEL LEIGH COOK (star of "Nancy Drew")
KENNY DOUGHTY (star of "The Great Raid")
NOW SHOWING
my first wedding
I LAUGH TILL YOU DROP!!

MTRCB ▸ R-18 | STRICTLY FOR 18 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
THE TALK-OF-THE-TOWN!
THE TRUE STORY OF DEMONIC EVIL, CANNIBALISM, AND SADISTIC RITUALS
THAT WILL KEEP YOU SCREAMING FROM BEGINNING TO END
THE #1 HORROR MOVIE IN AMERICA
NOW SHOWING
FROM MICHAEL BAY, THE DIRECTOR OF PEARL HARBOR & ARMAGEDDON
the TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE THE BEGINNING
EXCLUSIVELY SHOWING IN THE FF. CINEMAS:
ROBINSON'S Ermita, Nove, Galleria, Pioneer, POWERPLANT, GATEWAY, GREENHILLS, SHANGRI-LA, CINERAMA, GREENBELT, FILINVEST, QUAD, METROPOLIS, ALABANG Town Center, GOTESCO, STARMALL, ALIMALL, REMAR, Sta.LUCIA, METRO EAST, BLUE WAVE, EASTWOOD, MARKETMARKET, WALTERMART, MASAGANA.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

OPEN SEASON G 12:30,2:30,4:30, 6:30,8:30	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING R18 2:00,4:00	BARNYARD G 1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00
THE DEPARTED R13 1:05,4:05,7:05,10:05	MY FIRST WEDDING PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55	THE GUARDIAN PG13 2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-3400
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.

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For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 4:10, 10:55 R-18	BARNYARD 2:00, 6:25, 8:40 G
2	THE GUARDIAN 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10 PG-13	
3	OPEN SEASON 2:00, 4:15, 6:25 G	THE DEPARTED 8:20, 11:15 R-13
4	TILL I MET YOU 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G	

Glorietta | ALABANG TOWN | AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! | Ayala Malls Cinemas

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 215 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1	1 MY FIRST WEDDING	2 THE GUARDIAN	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	4 TILL I MET YOU
G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE DEPARTED	5 BARNYARD	6 THE GUARDIAN	7 TILL I MET YOU
GB1	1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING		2 TILL I MET YOU	
GB3	1 THX PELICULA: 5TH SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE GUARDIAN 3.00, 5.50, 8.40, 11.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEPARTED 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11.20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX THE GUARDIAN GUARANTEED SEATS		2 TILL I MET YOU	
	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	4 BARNYARD	5 THE DEPARTED	
ACC	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 TILL I MET YOU	3 FLYBOYS	4 THE DEPARTED
M2	1 BARNYARD		2 TILL I MET YOU	
	3 THE GUARDIAN	4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt 757 4853; from 10am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Anson's Exhibit October 5 to 21, 2006	Automatic Center Exhibit October 13 to 27, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Woodridge's United Nation Celebration October 25, 2006	Laguna Expo October 22 to 28, 2006
GREENBELT	Lounge Nights at Greenbelt 2 October 18 & 25, 2006
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN Jr. at REP's Globe Theater - October 9 to 29, 2006
Ayala MUSEUM	19th - 20th Century Philippine Art from Ayala Museum Collection On-going until January 2007 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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OPEN SEASON
October 16 (Mon.) & 17 (Tue.)
GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MTRCB Rating: General Audience
Regular run begins October 25 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
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October 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29
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Php 2.50 per message sent to Globe & Smart, Php 2.00 for Sun.

The Jerks' Chickoy Pura goes it alone in My Brother's Mustache

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE GUARDIAN MTRCB PG-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE MTRCB. R-18 1:05, 3:15, 5:30
3 TILL I MET YOU MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
4 OPEN SEASON MTRCB GP 12:50, 2:50, 4:50
THE DEPARTED MTRCB R-13 8:50, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE: BARNYARD MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(Except for "OPEN SEASON" Sneak Preview)
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details.
For DTI Permit No. A5 0608, Series of 2006.

Shangri-La Plaza

PHOTOS BY PETER MARQUEZ

Solo flight

REVIEW

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

CHICKOY PURA PLAYING SOLO ON acoustic guitar is a joyful event in itself. For him to do so weekly on Thursdays in a place called My Brother's Mustache in Quezon City makes it even more interesting.

The gig is a sort of return to Pura's musical roots. Before he became the front man of the Jerks, one of the best (and still very much around) local bands of the post-Juan de la Cruz era, Pura was admittedly a folkie who covered Neil Young classics in the small clubs around Manila's university belt. In the late 1970s, these clubs were called "folk houses."

The sign at My Bro's façade says it's a "folk bar" which, on first impression, implies it's a club that's unabashedly partial to the type of music that made larger-than-life figures out of Bob Dylan and, closer to home, Freddie Aguilar.

But once inside, whatever limitation the term "folk music" connotes quickly disintegrates. Printed on a tarpaulin backdrop onstage are enduring images of such rock icons as Jimi Hendrix, Mick Jagger and Eric Clapton, joined by others like Jim Croce and John Denver (now, that's more folk-like). And as if to create more gleeful confusion, the faces that greet you by the entrance door are four individual posters of John, Paul, George and Ringo.

To brush aside the tyranny of terms, I just thought that My Bro's is a place where good folks hang out to watch great live music.

Which rang true as soon as Pura proceeded to perform a vibrant version of the Fab Four's "Michelle." The excellent quality of My Bro's audio equipment did justice to the tone of Pura's vocals and clarity of his guitar strumming.

After hearing a couple of standard folk material (Young's "Sugar Mountain" and Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody"), we were delighted with twin surprises: spirited covers of Ray Charles ("Georgia on My Mind") and Billy Joel ("New York State of Mind"). We took note of Pura's deliberate choices of these tunes that described the songwriters' affinity with their hometowns.

Following a string of seldom-heard interpretations of Joe Jackson, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Hendrix ("Purple Haze" on acoustic!), Sting, Stray Cats, Nick Lowe and Paul Weller, what caught us equally off-guard were Pura's own compositions, "Kundi Man" and "The Storm"—the latter said to be written very recently in response to the rash of violent deaths involving journalists and activists nationwide.

But what finally floored us was Mon Espia being called to jam to a couple of songs that we swear not anybody could have the balls to cover: Steely Dan's "Rikki Don't Lose That Number" and "My Old School." And that was when we also realized why Gary Valenciano continues to rely on Espia as lead guitarist of his backup band, the Powerplay.

Espia, by the way, also performs solo at My Bro's Mustache, and is likewise the producer of a forthcoming CD featuring 17 artists performing newly written, all-original material.

My Bro's owner, Rafael "Boy" Vinzon, is bankrolling the one-of-a-kind CD, unique in the sense that all proceeds (100 percent of sales) would be divided among the 17 artists who, incidentally, also perform at the club, including Heber Bartolome, Noel Cabangon, Lester Demetillo, Pol Galang, Wally Gonzales, Rannie Raymundo and Susan Fernandez, among others.

Vinzon says he wants the album to serve as a precious memento—when the time comes to close down for good—that there was once a place called My Bro's Mustache where all these wonderful, talented musicians played.

At the moment though, that time appears far out of sight. The night we were there, the folks kept coming in.

(My Bro's Mustache is at 68 Scout Madriñan corner Scout Tuason, Quezon City.)

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A NEW WORLD OF DRAMA OPENS TONIGHT
ON THE COUNTRY'S UNDISPUTED NO. 1 PRIMETIME BLOCK
ANG MAS PINATINDING GMA TELEBABAD
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
6:00 - 10:30 pm

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by Popular Demand
Tumitindi ang mga pagsubok ni Jang Geum sa palasyo!
24 Oras
Balitang Walang Kinikilingan! Dito lang maaasahan!
Captain Barbell
Sinong susunod na patutumbahin ng Superhero ng Bayan?
Atlantika
Mga bagong lihim, aahon na!
Bakekang
Anong naghihintay na kapalaran nina Kristal at Charming?

Susundan ng Bagong Mukha ng Drama...
NANDITO NA ANG KOREANOVELANG NAGPALUHA SA BUONG MUNDO!

Sa babaeng nagbigay
ng lahat sa pamilya
at pag-ibig,
may hangganan ba
ang paghihirap?

A Rosy Life

PREMIERES TONIGHT
Pagkatapos ng Bakekang

GMA

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Bea as Mama Mary, serial killer, lead in movie musical

NEWS / A2

PNP raises terror alert in Metro Manila, hunts 2 suspects in bomb plot

WORLD / A20

US, China show signs of discord over N. Korea sanctions

METRO / A17

Imee Marcos says Borgy, not Imelda, running for Manila mayor next year

Quake strikes Hawaii; gov declares disaster

HONOLULU—A STRONG EARTHQUAKE ON Sunday shook Hawaii, jolting residents out of bed and causing a landslide that blocked a major highway. Hundreds of hotel guests and hospital patients were evacuated, and aftershocks kept the state on edge.

Gov. Linda Lingle issued a disaster declaration for the entire state, saying there had been

QUAKE / A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 17, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 311 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Israeli president faces rape charges

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI PRESIDENT MOSHE Katsav was fighting for his political life on Monday after police said they had enough evidence to indict him on charges of rape, sexual harassment and wire-tapping.

Katsav, who cancelled his appearance to open the new session of parliament later Monday, is immune from prosecution while he holds the largely ceremonial post of president. But he

ISRAELI/ A6

Palace stops oath-taking

Wait for final CA ruling, frustrated nursing test 'passers' told

By Leila B. Salaverria, Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

THEY CAME AS EARLY as 8 a.m. yesterday to the Professional Regulation Commission office in Sampaloc, Manila, hoping to finally take their oath as nurses after months of delay.

But the joy and relief felt by "passers" of the June 2006 nursing board exam after the Court of Appeals said on Friday that they could take their oath gave way to disappointment and anger when the PRC announced that the oath-taking would not push through.

"I am very, very disappointed," said Michelle Torio, one of the hundreds of graduates who came to the PRC from various parts of the country. She maintained that she did not cheat.

The Department of Labor and Employment stopped the PRC from administering the oath and from issuing licenses to the examinees who passed the nursing licensure exam because the court's decision was not yet final.

"What if it gets reversed?" said Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, who had been tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to resolve the controversy.

The Court of Appeals ruled that those who passed the board exam conducted outside Manila and Baguio City and those who registered for but did not attend the "final coaching" sessions at three review centers suspected of leaking test questions could take their oath as nurses.

Brion noted that the decision still had to be submitted to the clerk of court, before copies of it could be sent to the parties concerned yesterday.

He said he wanted to avoid further complicating the predicament of examinees in light of the possible filing of a motion for re-

PALACE/ A6

THE MOOD swings from anxiety to frustration in the Professional Regulation Commission auditorium as hundreds of passers of the June nursing board exams fail to take their professional oath in a scheduled ceremony. PHOTOS BY REM ZAMORA

Gov't failed to prevent killings —Senate

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ECHOING THE CRITICISMS OF local and international groups, the Senate blamed the spate of killings of journalists and judges on the failure of the government to prevent the murders and render justice to the victims.

In a 16-page report, three Senate committees that looked into the killings of journalists and judges said some law enforcers were involved in the media slayings and that a "huge pool of guns-for-hire" could be tapped to do the job.

"Despite the high-profile cases, the government has not responded adequately to the situation. It has failed to deliver justice," the report said.

It said the "failure of the policing and prosecution systems in the country is completely undermining the protection of individuals tasked with publicizing the truth and dispensing justice."

"But after all is said and done, improving police investigation should also be accompanied by government's commitment in prosecuting the suspects. The police and the courts must be committed to demonstrate that culture change is possible," the senators said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, after receiving a stinging rebuke from the international community, recently created a commission headed by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo to investigate the killings of leftists and journalists.

Committee Report No. 150, issued on Oct. 12, was signed by

GOV'T FAILED/ A8

Nursing groups seek reconsideration

By Armand N. Nocum

NURSING GROUPS YESTERDAY asked the Court of Appeals to reconsider its order for a selective retake of the nursing licensure exam, saying that the court did not act on the leak.

Claiming that the leakage occurred all over the country, the petitioners asked the appellate court to order a retake of Tests III (medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing) by all those who took the licensure exam on June 11-12.

The petitioners were Rene M. Tadle, Earl Francis R. Sumile and Michael Angelo S. Brant, heads of the UST College of Nursing Faculty Association, the League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng Mga Student Nurses, respectively.

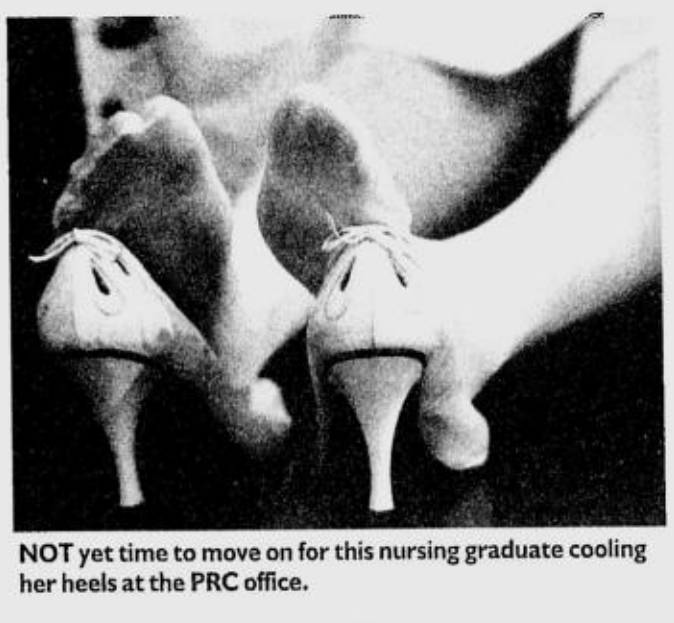
They sought the issuance of a "status quo order" while the motion for reconsideration was being heard.

In a 15-page motion, the petitioners said the court glossed over the leakage when it did not count on the "likelihood that the favored examinees subsequently passed on these leaked questions to others."

They said that about "3,700 or one-fifth of the 17,000-plus" successful examinees were believed to have benefited from the leak when they attended the "final coaching" sessions at the R.A. Gapuz Review Center and the Inress Review Center branches in Manila and Baguio City.

They noted that during the oral ar-

NURSING/ A6



NOT yet time to move on for this nursing graduate cooling her heels at the PRC office.

Comedians stand up vs poverty

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE SUMMER capital stood up against poverty on Monday by laughing at its troubles.

Clowns, comedians and wacky artists produced a literal "stand-up comedy" routine as part of the global crusade called Stand Up Against Poverty. The show was organized for the city by the Philippine Non-Government Organization Council (PNGOC).

Mimes with sad white faces danced and pranced on the streets to get pedestrians to sign a petition condemning widespread poverty.

One portrayed a street cigarette vendor, although all that his strap-on box contained were condoms. Another clown wore a giant billboard announc-

COMEDIANS/ A8

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

SAD-FACED clowns roam the main street of Baguio City to get people to sign up for a petition against global poverty.

HOSPITAL WASTE WOES

DENR 'extortion' denounced

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A dialogue among Metro Manila mayors and officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the Pasig River rehabilitation yesterday turned out to be a revelation of a stinking problem among hospital owners.

The president of the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) accused DENR officials of extorting money from hospitals in Luzon and Mindanao that allegedly failed to effectively get rid of their waste.

Speaking before nine Metro Manila mayors, Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes and other environment officials, PHA president Tiburcio S. Macias said hospitals would not survive with DENR officials frequently demanding money from them.

"It is a big problem for us. Almost every week, officials of the DENR ... ask for P50,000 to P200,000 from hospitals," Macias said at the forum at the Manila Hotel.

There are 2,196 hospitals all over the country, all members of the PHA. Philippine Health Insurance Corp. does not accredit hospitals not registered with the PHA.

Macias, who was among the private sector guests at the dialogue, raised the issue after Reyes noted that hazardous wastes from hospitals were a "recurrent problem" of the DENR because a huge volume of these were untreated and sometimes found

DENR/ A8

All we want for Christmas . . .

By DJ Yap

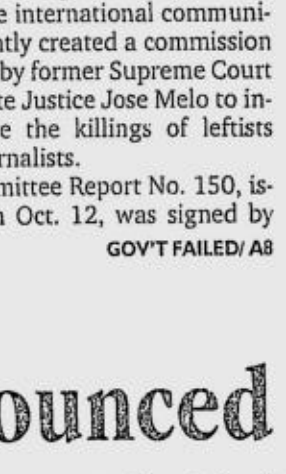
TOOTHY GRINS ARE THE PERFECT gift for the elderly residents of Quezon City, who will receive free dentures in time for Christmas.

In an effort to bring early Yuletide cheer, the city government has launched free denture services for the poor, especially senior citizens who had lost all their teeth.

Dubbed "Handog Bagong Tuwa at Ngiti para sa mga Bungi (Gift of New Cheer and Smiles to the Toothless)," the project stands to benefit 120 people, who will receive new sets of full dentures by December.

Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista has signed a memorandum of agreement with three private dental laboratories to make the toothy dreams possible.

ALL WE WANT/ A6



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/16/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Police hunt 2 bombers in Metro

POLICE RAISED THE TERROR ALERT IN METRO Manila and are hunting two suspected Moro militants believed to be planning a bombing campaign in the capital, only days after a series of deadly blasts killed 12 and injured scores in southern Mindanao.

Security operatives are zeroing in on two bomb makers from the shadowy Rajah Solaiman Movement, a group of Christian converts to Islam linked to the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group and the Southeast Asian regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). The three groups were blamed for the worst militant attack in recent years—the 2004 bombing of a ferry near Manila that killed more than 100 people.

"We're focusing on two personalities who have the capability to prepare bombs and who are believed to be hiding in the outskirts of Manila, said the city's military commander, Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino.

"Right now, we learned there is a plan to explode bombs in the capital." he said. Security will be tightened in possible targets such as shopping malls, transport systems and other public areas. More checkpoints will be set up on roads and highways.

Dolorfino told the INQUIRER he did not believe the suspects were planning suicide attacks, but said they were capable of making bombs similar to the ones used in the recent attacks in Mindanao.

At any rate, "the prudent thing is to tell the public to be vigilant," added PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

The military has placed Metro Manila under a "moderate" terror alert or Alert No. 2 under a new four-tiered warning system, which means a group with an attack plan exists.

Should the alert level be raised up a notch to "high"—as it is in parts of southwestern Mindanao—military troops would be deployed to patrol key areas in the metropolis along with the police, Dolorfino said.

He said the authorities would raise the alert level once they believe the terrorists had acquired the capability to launch an attack.

Elite US-trained antiterror forces are ready for deployment in the capital.

A senior intelligence official told Reuters they received information that Muslim militants were planning attacks in Manila between the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on Oct. 24 and Nov. 1, the Roman Catholic's All Saints Day holiday when a huge number of people would be taking trips outside Manila.

"These people might take advantage of the situation because Manila would be vulnerable to an attack," said the intelligence officer.

The Rajah Solaiman Movement is believed to be operating in Metro Manila and other capitals in Luzon. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Armed Forces chief of staff, told reporters 27 members of the group had been identified and six of them had been arrested, including the suspected leader, Hilarion del Rosario Santos III, also known as Ahmed Santos.

Assistant Defense Secretary Ricardo Blancaflor said in a separate interview with Agence France Presse that in the absence of specific target information it was better to "presume the worst and prepare for the worst."

In the past week, cities in the southern Philippines have been hit by a rash of bomb attacks, believed to be the work of Abu Sayyaf members, possibly to divert attention away from the military's pursuit of JI and Abu Sayyaf rebels on Jolo island. Already 12 people have been killed and over 30 people wounded in the bombings, the latest occurring Sunday at a police camp on Jolo.

Marine forces in the south are searching for two JI leaders believed to be hiding in Sulu—Dulmatin and Umar Patek, who helped carry out the the nightclub bombings in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 that killed 202 people.

The Associated Press reports said authorities also suspected that the new attacks may have been in retaliation for the Oct. 3 arrest of the wife of Dulmatin, one of the Indonesians hiding on Jolo and a key suspect in the 2002 Bali bombings. *Dona Pazibugan, Alcuin Papa, with wire reports*

Military asks MILF for help in arresting bombing suspect

UPON ORDERS OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, the military has asked the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to help arrest an alleged MILF commander tagged as among the principal suspects in last week's bombings in central Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, chair of the government panel in the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG), said he had formally asked his counterpart in the MILF if both parties could "jointly work" for the interdiction of Abdul Basit Usman.

"I have provided them with the picture of the principal suspect," said Dolorfino, who heads the Armed Forces National Capital Region Command (NCRCom).

He said he was informed by his MILF contacts that Usman was expelled from the organization after he was implicated in the 2003 Davao City bombings.

He said their latest information showed Usman belonged to an Abu Sayyaf "sleeper cell" in Central Mindanao.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, insisted in a phone interview that there was no Abdul Basit Usman in the MILF. He also said the MILF-AHJAG had not received Dolorfino's request.

Told about the MILF's claim that Usman was not an MILF member, Dolorfino said: "Then we're more eager to capture him."

Within a 24-hour span last week, improvised bombs went off in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat, Makilala town in North Cotabato and Cotabato City in Maguindanao, killing eight people and wounding several dozen others.

On Sunday night, an explosive device wounded three civilians in a police camp in Jolo, Sulu.

Also yesterday, police filed criminal complaints accusing two top Indonesian terror suspects—Dulmatin and Umar Patek—and 18 Filipino militants of attempted murder in the bomb attack that wounded four people at the Tacurong market.

Dulmatin and Patek—believed to be hiding in the southern Mindanao region—have been blamed for some of Southeast Asia's worst terrorist attacks, including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

"These people have no soul. They kill innocent people. We want to show them that they could not do these attacks and escape accountability and the law," regional police Chief Supt. German Doria told The Associated Press by telephone.

Authorities believe that last week's bombings were planned by Dulmatin, who goes by one name, and Patek, believed to belong to the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

None of the suspects are in police custody. The complaints were filed with a local prosecutor who will decide whether the suspects can be charged in court with attempted murder.

The same suspects are to be named in criminal complaints to be filed this week in connection with the other attacks, Doria said. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria; AP*

Australia denies troops operating in RP

THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN MANILA yesterday strongly denied foreign media reports that Australian troops had been involved in counterterrorism operations in the country, activities that would violate the Philippine Constitution.

The mission maintained that members of the Australian Defense Force (ADF) had only been to the Philippines to "observe" training maneuvers between Filipino and American troops and to take part in annual counter-hijacking exercises with the Philippine military.

"Articles in the Australian and some international media, principally in News Limited newspapers, are wrong," the embassy said in a statement. "Australia does not have any ADF personnel deployed to the Philippines on operations."

"The Australian Government respects the Philippine Constitution, which prohibits operations with foreign forces without a treaty-level agreement," it said.

Last March, it recalled, one ADF special forces officer came at the invitation of the Philippine government to observe RP-US Balikatan exercises, including its civic-military programs, then held in Zamboanga.

Over several years, the ADF had also conducted annual counter-hijack training in the Philippines as it did with other countries in the region and "this activity did not involve operations," it stressed. *Volt Contreras*

New Thai leader coming

BANGKOK—Thailand's recently appointed interim prime minister, Surayud Chulanont, will visit Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam in the next two weeks, a government spokesperson said Monday.

Surayud, appointed to the post on Oct. 1 after a coup overthrew the elected government, will go this Wednesday on a one-day visit to Malaysia.

He will visit Indonesia on Saturday, the Philippines on Oct. 23 and Vietnam on Oct. 26, spokesperson Yongyuth Maiyalarb said.

In Malaysia, Surayud is expected to meet with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Defense Minister Najib Razak for talks which will include discussions on the violence in Thailand's three southernmost provinces which border Malaysia.

Sectarian violence since the Muslim insurgency flared up in 2004 in the provinces has claimed more than 1,700 lives. In recent weeks, Malaysia has said it is willing to try to facilitate talks between Thai authorities and the insurgents.

Surayud visited Laos and Cambodia at the weekend. *AP*

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Atty. Liwayway Vinzons-Chato – BIR Commissioner (1993 – 1998). She is the first female and second longest serving BIR Commissioner. Currently managing partner of Chato Vinzons-Chato Law Offices.

Atty. Nelson M. Aspe, CPA – BIR Regional Director of the City of Makati (2006 – present). He is also a BIR, MCLE, and CPE lecturer on internal revenue and other selected tax matters.

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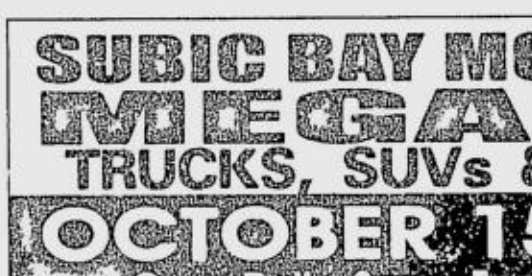

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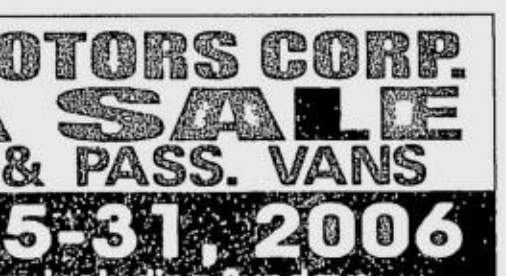

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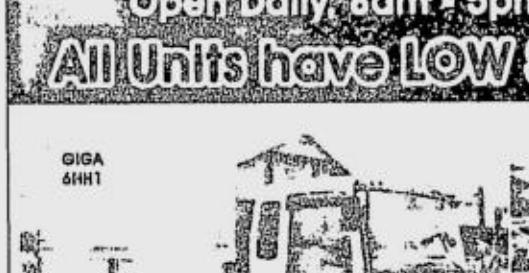

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Court orders arrests in case filed by FG

By Tina G. Santos

A MANILA COURT YESTERDAY ISSUED warrants arrest for former Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad and several editors and reporters of the Malaya newspaper after it found probable cause to support the libel case filed against them by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Apart from Tatad, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. also ordered the arrest of Malaya editor in chief Amado Macasaet, editors Enrique Romualdez, Joy de los Reyes, Ma. Teresa Molina, Minnie Advincula and Ellen Tordesillas, and reporters JP Lopez and Regina Bengco.

"There is reasonable ground to believe that the offense [they are] charged [with] has been committed and that the accused are probably guilty thereof," Pampilo told reporters. "The article had been published and there was malice to malign the reputation and good name of the First Gentleman and the President."

The judge said copies of the arrest warrants had been distributed to the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Bail of P10,000 was recommended for the temporary liberty of each of the accused.

However, Tatad et al. were able to make bail yesterday afternoon so the warrants of arrest had been withdrawn.

The multimillion-peso libel suit filed by Arroyo in June 2004 stemmed from an article that accused him of committing election offenses.

Arroyo was referring to the article, "Poe's camp says Mike is Chief Cheating Operator" which was published by Malaya on May 19, 2004. The article was written by Lopez and Bengco.

Tatad was cited as the news source.

The stories, according to Arroyo's complaint, said that he was involved in election fraud as he had looked "to purchase CoCs (certificates of canvass) with the aid of military personnel and government officials" around the country, particularly in Mindanao.

"It's not true I was in Mindanao after the elections. I was in Manila and many people can attest to that," Arroyo said.

The article, he added, imputed that I spearheaded the administration's alleged attempt to manipulate election results.

"I have done no act to manipulate election results and I am not acting under the administration's alleged scheme to alter the election results," Arroyo said, adding that the article was published with actual malice and that the accusations were "obviously designed to make the news."

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday condemned the issuance of warrants of arrest against Macasaet and the filing of libel cases against journalists critical of Arroyo.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo should intercede and tell her family not to be onion-skinned," Cayetano said.

He added that the President and her family should set an example and "live a life with utmost transparency and accountability."

Cayetano said that in the First Family's quest to get back at its detractors, "institutions are being destroyed just so critics can be silenced, harassed and hassled." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Palawan gov sues lawyer, client for libel

PUERTO PRINCESA City—A Palawan judge has issued a warrant of arrest for a lawyer and his client who were sued for libel by Gov. Joel Reyes.

Bail of P10,000 each was set for lawyer Romeo Gerochi and his client, Evelyn Clavecilla, both residents of Iloilo City, by Judge Bienvenido Blancaflor of Regional Trial Court Branch 55.

Reyes charged Gerochi and Clavecilla with libel for allegedly maligning him in interviews over Palawan radio stations in which they talked about an estafa case they had filed against the governor and for "maliciously imputing" to him the killing of broadcaster Fernando Batul on May 23 this year.

In the interviews, Gerochi and Clavecilla said Reyes was involved in an allegedly anomalous land deal on Coron island, the governor's birthplace.

Clavecilla claimed Reyes had cheated her family in the land deal, as a result of which she filed a case for estafa against him in Iloilo City 10 years ago.

Provincial Information Officer Rolando Bonoan Jr. said it was normal for the media to talk about the affairs of a political figure, but "for a person to talk about an old case and personally attack the governor is actionable and unlawful." *Jofelle P. Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Laguna newsmen off hook in libel

CALAMBA CITY—The San Pablo City prosecutor's office threw out a libel case filed by a city councilor against staffers of a community newspaper which had published reports and photos of him beating up a journalist.

Citing the constitutional provision on freedom of the press, Assistant City Prosecutor Perla Abril-Pawang trashed the libel case filed by Councilor Edgardo Adajar against publisher Paul Manalo and two columnists—Iring Maranan and Dodie Banzuela—of San Pablo-based tabloid Diretso Balita.

Adajar, apparently upset over a series of articles exposing irregularities in the purchase of a parcel of land by the city government, reportedly mauled Maranan outside the city's session hall on May 16. The photo of the mauling was published in the tabloid, and the journalists filed a libel and grave coercion case against the city councilor, who in turn filed a countersuit. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cristina: A Sexy, Ageless Body...

Thanks to Ultrashape!

At her age of 42, Cristina Gonzalez – Romualdez has remained one of the country's sexiest moms in show business today. In fact, she discloses her secret to maintaining a sexy body like that of a 20something woman through Ultrashape!

Cristina has learned the importance of looking always at her best and in control even under pressure. "No matter how taxing work can be, I make sure not to let stress get into my nerves and make me worry. It will only take me to old age faster than I can imagine."

Her drive to stay fit comes from her fear of getting fat. "I love to dress up and to always present myself well! I know I can't look good if I'm fat. I can't play with my kids, take long walks with my husband or run around the house if I'm so big and heavy."

Feeling so lucky that she's got Marie France, Cristina doesn't have to worry about keeping a sexy figure. Problem is, her strong craving for foods like rice and pasta make her tummy expand once in a while. "Nobody notices that my tummy gets big too because it's easy to hide. But when it does, I can hide it, yes, but the bloated feeling, it's terrible."

Cristina was recently introduced to the latest slimming breakthrough in the country today – Ultrashape! She shares her views on how Ultrashape fares as compared to more drastic weight-loss procedures available, "Ultrashape is by far the best slimming treatment you can get at present! When I tried it for the first time, I already noticed how fast the result came! I easily lost 4cm after only one session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do!"

"With Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle with liposuction?!"

"I'm afraid of side effects. That's why I've always been apprehensive to take diet pills. You won't have any idea of what it can do to your body until it just hits you. Crash dieting doesn't work for me either. And as for liposuction, it doesn't even come close to Ultrashape as far as safety is concerned."

She justifies, "I'm scared of surgical operations in general. People I know who've given liposuction a try only say one thing – it's so painful! I also don't agree that it is the only fastest way to lose weight. With Ultrashape, you can also lose those stubborn fats in as fast as one month! Discipline is the key to everything. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle with liposuction?!"

Giving more light to her secret in having a sexy, ageless body Cristina puts in plain words, "It's the graceful acceptance of knowing what you can and cannot change. When I was in my 20s I thought 42 was already old. But then, it's not. At my age, I feel like I'm wiser. I'm happier. Because as one grows older, you also know what suits you more. You learn how to carry yourself with confidence. You learn to prioritize and enjoy life as it is. You learn how to be at peace with yourself."

Describing herself now, Cristina simply points out on one thing, "You can call me vain. That's ok with me. I don't obsess on my looks too much. It just means that I know how to take care of myself. Well, you'd be lying if you say that you don't have a certain amount of vanity in you, come on. It's just that for me, I think that it's part of my obligation to pamper myself. I deserve to be healthy. And if there will always be safer venues for me to look younger and stay slimmer like Ultrashape, life will definitely be a little less stressful, and a little more fun at 42!"

Call 894-BODY (2639) for Ultrashape – LIPO without the suction.

Angara: School-feeding plan worse than fertilizer scam

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christine Avendaño

THE P3.5 BILLION THAT THE government has set aside to bankroll next year's school feeding program will be used in a racket worse than the so-called fertilizer fund scam, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Angara said the amount, which was appropriated for the school feeding program in 2007, was earmarked for the importation of about one million tons of rice to be given to students. And therein lies the problem, he said at a forum yesterday.

Angara said the rice would not address the problem of malnutrition among children, while the importation would favor importers who support the government.

He said the importation of rice was also an insult to farmers who should have been given the money instead in the form of rice support.

He said the Senate will investigate the program to determine its proponent, the planned system of distribution of the rice, and the effects of the importation on local products.

Angara's accusation drew swift reaction from Malacañang.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said last night he was surprised by Angara's assertion that the food-for-school program was a scam and that it was intended to solve the malnutrition problem in the country.

"It's a program that in its inception Senator Angara put in an amendment. He gave inputs and this program has now become the milk-and-breakfast program. So how can that be a scam?" Andaya said.

The program is included in the recently approved supplemental budget for this year, according to Andaya. He said the program would be implemented in areas identified by the Department of Health as being high in incidence of hunger and malnutrition.

Sen. Alfredo Lim, who was also at the Kapihan sa Manila forum, said giving rice to schoolchildren was only a ploy to win votes.

"The long and short of it is, this is for the buying of votes," he said. "It's the parents that will be influenced. They would get a kilo of rice, and if they're poor, that would be a good thing. In the election, that would be converted into votes."

He branded the giving of rice as "electioneering," which he said was against the Omnibus Election Code.

Angara seconded Lim. "This is a very simple racket, this is a scam. For the school feeding they would give rice to the children? The children would only bring it home," Angara said.

He said the children should be given fortified food in school to address their deficiency in nutrients, similar to the vitamin-enriched "nutribun" that used to be given to students.

"What's bad is that it's electioneering, and yet someone will earn money from its importation. And they abuse school children and farmers," he said.

In likening the food program to the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, Angara said: "This is worse because it's as if you stepped on all the rice farmers in the Philippines. Instead of the money being placed in a rice support mechanism to help them, it's as if you disrespected the Filipino farmers."

He added that the schoolchildren were being disrespected as well because they would be used to help importers friendly to those in power. "You are using them to help some importers who are supporters of those in government earn a lot of commission from the rice," he said.

Globe among Asia's most-admired firms

ABLAZA

LEADING TELECOMMUNICATIONS provider Globe Telecom bagged the top award in the "High quality products and services" category among Philippine companies in the Asia's 200 most admired companies survey conducted by The Wall Street Journal Asia.

Globe also placed second in the "Innovation" category and third in overall ranking.

The ranking was determined through a survey of hundreds of business decision-makers who rated approximately 40 companies in each market. The criteria was: Financial soundness, good company reputation, high quality products and services, innovative response to customer needs, and long-term vision of management.

A total of 3,049 executives and professionals from 12 Asian countries participated in this year's survey. The companies were selected on the basis of their headquarters location, market capitalization and inclusion in Dow Jones indexes.

Globe president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza will receive the award in Hong Kong on Oct. 19.

"As an organization, we are very proud of this recognition because high quality in a service business like ours is determined by both product function and customer experience. This recognition is therefore an indication of how effectively we have worked together as a team in serving our customers well, Ablaza said."

Comelec says LP polls illegal, orders new party elections

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COMMISSION ON ELECtions (Comelec) yesterday declared illegal and invalid the election last March of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as the new president of the 60-year-old Liberal Party.

In a 17-page resolution, the Comelec told Atienza and his allies, among them Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor who was elected chair of the party during the disputed March 2 assembly, to stop "representing themselves as officers of the party and performing the duties and functions" of their new positions.

Atienza and Defensor had organized the "rump party elections" after then LP president and Senate President Franklin Drilon announced his decision to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo for alleged cheating in the 2004 election.

"Upon meticulous consideration of the facts, it is clear that the elections conducted by the respondents on March 2, 2006, were not in accordance with, but in gross violation of, the LP Constitution and therefore invalid," the Comelec ruled.

But noting that Drilon's term as party president had already expired, the commission said it would supervise an election on Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Manila Hotel.

Both Atienza and Drilon released statements saying they accepted the Comelec-supervised election next month.

Atienza motion

However, Atienza said he would file a motion for partial reconsideration to appeal the process proposed by the Comelec for electing the new LP leadership. Instead of confining the selection of the next LP president to the National Executive Committee, Atienza wants the choice to be made by an expanded "general leadership" which would include party mates that are incumbent national and local elective officials.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said Drilon's expired term was the reason the body merely "partially granted" the senator's petition against the Atienza faction.

"While we declared that the election of Atienza and company was not in accordance with the party's constitution and bylaws, we can't sustain the position of Drilon to still remain as president," he explained in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Abalos said he was hoping that the ruling would finally put to rest the leadership row within the party.

"With the fact that both parties submitted themselves to the jurisdiction of the Comelec, I hope they will honor the ruling," he said.

Abad's term

Based on the LP constitution, Drilon has already served the remaining term of his predecessor, Florencio "Butch" Abad, who resigned upon his appointment as education secretary on Sept. 8, 2004. According to the Comelec, Abad's term expired on July 24.

The Comelec, however, said the bigger issue was the election conducted by Atienza's group last March, purportedly on the pretext of a conference on "decentralization and autonomy" and "consultation with party members."

The Comelec did not buy the Atienza faction's argument that the occasion was attended by "majority of the LP congressmen, majority of the National Executive Council, and majority of the LP local chief executives nationwide."

No authority

It said the national directorate, the party's highest policy and decision-making body, could not be "loosely" comprised of these members.

"The assembly on March 2, 2006, was convened by respondent Mayor Atienza who is not the party president," the Comelec ruled. "Pursuant to the constitution, he was not authorized or empowered to do so."

The Comelec also ruled that there was "absolutely no notice" on the planned elections during the March gathering.

"The election of officers of the party is an important agenda that should have been stated in the invitation," it said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Tina G. Santos*

AIDA Gomez, one of Spain's prized dancers, is expected to dazzle Manila audiences with her performance of Georges Bizet's "Carmen," today at 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

JESS YUSON

Ole! Greatest flamenco dancer to perform tonight

By Nikko Dizon

AIDA GOMEZ, ARGUABLY THE greatest living dancer in Spain, was wearing flip-flops when she arrived yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Wearing a simple black T-shirt and skirt, her face clear of makeup, Gomez would have passed unnoticed had it not been for a crowd of jostling photographers snapping her picture.

Tonight, the dance icon takes center stage in a reinterpretation of Georges Bizet's classic opera "Carmen" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"Come and see the performance for you to know more about the flamenco," Gomez said in Spanish, with Instituto Cervantes director Jose Rodriguez acting as her interpreter.

The Aida Gomez Flamenco Company will interpret the love triangle tale between a gypsy girl, a soldier and a bullfighter through a combination of flamenco and Spanish classical dance.

The performance, which is Gomez's successful interpretation of the classic, is the main attraction of the month-long Fiesta 2006, the Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts.

Gomez started dancing when she was seven years old and has been dancing professionally for the past 25 years. She was awarded the Premio Nacional de Danza (National Prize for Dance) in 2004.

Gomez holds the distinction of being the youngest artistic director of the Spanish National Ballet and founded her own flamenco company in 2001. She currently teaches master classes in Spain and performs to sold-out tours worldwide.

Dredging of Pasig mulled yet again

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS YESterday proposed the massive dredging of the 27-kilometer Pasig River in an attempt to start, yet again, another rehabilitation program for the river, which has been deemed unfit for anything but agricultural purposes.

In a dialogue with Metro Manila mayors yesterday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said a massive dredging, followed by regular cleanup work, was needed to return the river to pristine condition.

"We want to make the Pasig River come alive again and teeming with aquatic life," Environment Undersecretary Francisco Bravo said.

"We cannot allow the Pasig River to be used as a huge septic tank for Metro Manila," he said, addressing the nine mayors who were present during the dialogue at the Manila Hotel.

Bravo said the World Bank was keen on funding the dredging of the river up to 5.5 meters deep to remove debris and make it suitable for other purposes like fishing.

The Pasig River runs through 11 of the 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila: Caloocan, Makati, Marikina, Mandaluyong, Manila, Quezon City, San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, Pasay and Pasig.

According to data from the DENR, about 150 tons of domestic waste and 75 tons of industrial waste are dumped into the Pasig River every day, heavily polluting the once-beautiful river.

"We are all guilty," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, president of the Metro Manila Mayors League, said at the start of the dialogue.

"The recent Typhoon 'Milenyo' should be a reminder for us. We need to accelerate efforts to save the river. We cannot solve the problem individually; we need to synthesize our efforts," he said.

The DENR is eyeing the establishment of the "Pasig River Highway," an alternative ferry route for commuters in the North-South lane of Edsa, which is perennially clogged with vehicles.

Aside from Atienza, the mayors of Quezon City, Las Piñas, Marikina, Pasay, Pasig, Pateros, Navotas and Muntinlupa attended the dialogue.

More OFWs leaving, more funds coming in

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment yesterday announced a 5.2-percent increase in the deployment of overseas Filipino workers this year.

At total of 844,034 OFWs left the country from Jan. 1 to Oct. 9 this year—41,556 more than the number in the same period last year.

Citing a separate report from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said OFW remittances totaled $8.1 billion (P405 billion) from January to August this year.

The sum represented a 15.3-percent increase in remittances compared to the same period in 2005, Brion said in a statement.

"On the average, the OFWs have been remitting a total figure reaching $1 billion (P50 billion) monthly in the first eight months of 2006," the official said.

The increase in the number of OFW deployment was apparently traced to land-based OFWs and seafarers.

Quoting the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Brion said a total of 645,167 skilled and land-based Filipino workers left between Jan. 1 and Oct. 9 this year.

The sum marked a 5.2-percent increase from last year's figure, which stood at 613,178, he said.

The number of Filipino seafarers who left for abroad during the January-October period also rose by 5.1 percent, up from 189,300 in 2005 to 198,867 this year, he said.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 14 ISSUE, a front-page article—"Gringo, 48 others face new rebellion raps for failed coup"—misstated the first name of one of the academicians charged with rebellion. The academician's name is Francisco—not Prudencio—Nemenzo.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"9 senators ask SC to sanction Ombudsman, annul decision"—suggested uncertainty when it said that Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III—"is said to be a bar topnotcher." He did top the bar in 1990.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Estrada wants MTRCB to get its money

By Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday called on the House of Representatives to restore the P31.9-million budget of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board for next year.

Estrada issued the statement after the House allocated only P1 for the MTRCB in the 2007 national budget.

The House minority during the budget deliberations had assailed the MTRCB for giving the documentary on Estrada, "Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa," a triple-X rating and moved to block its budget.

"I appeal to Congress to restore the MTRCB's budget for no other reason than to spare its employees from any hardships that are a direct result of the failure of its leadership to apply the law fairly and without thought for political expediency," Estrada said in a statement issued through his lawyer Rufus Rodriguez.

Estrada said that while the agency's employees were not to blame for the triple-X rating his biography received, its officials should be penalized for grave abuse of authority.

"It's a blatant suppression of that most basic of human rights—the freedom of expression," Estrada said.

He also called on the MTRCB officials to resign.

"They ought to leave the agency on their own volition to avoid further damaging its already tainted reputation, and to spare its employees from the hazards of politicking as so obviously engaged in by its current leadership," Estrada said.

Opposition congressmen led by Minority Leader Francis Escudero had said the triple-X rating was uncalled for since the documentary dealt with factual events and Estrada's life as a public servant.

The rating prevented the television release of the video. It was also used by the Manila city government to ban its public screening in the city's freedom parks.

Malacañang said yesterday it would work on restoring the MTRCB's budget allocation.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said officials could still engage in "back room negotiations to convince [lawmakers] to restore it."

Standoff over funds shuts UP publication

By DJ Yap

FOR TWO MONTHS NOW, THERE HAS BEEN little activity on the fourth floor of Vinzons Hall, the student center at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, where the editorial office of the Philippine Collegian is located.

Locked in a standoff with the UP administration over the release of its publication fund, the country's most outspoken student newspaper has suspended press work, as it tries to resolve the fiscal problem.

Staff members and school authorities are arguing about whether the Collegian fund is a public fund, and therefore is subject to the Government Procurement Act, or a student fund under the full control of the editorial board.

As a result of the standoff, the UP administration has withheld the money allocated for the weekly paper's printing costs, angering editors and reporters who launched a campaign demanding the release of the fund.

So far, no one is budging. The last Collegian issue to hit the stands came out in late August, and staff members say they have given up hope of coming out with an issue before the semester ends.

Not just about money

While the debate is primarily about money, Collegian editors and reporters maintain that it is "in essence about silencing" the paper, which has been critical of both the national government and the UP administration.

"From the first issue of this year's term, the Collegian was already very critical of the UP administration and the national government," noted Wendell Gumban, a senior editor.

"What is happening to the Collegian right now is very beneficial to the administration and Malacañang; so to us, it seems to be an indirect way of repressing the paper," he said.

This view was disputed in an open letter to the UP community by Diliman chancellor Sergio Cao, who said the Collegian "has never been under siege."

"...This UP Diliman Administration has not done anything to threaten the independence of the Collegian as to what they can write about and how they write it," he said.

He said the Collegian funds were public funds and should be subject to government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules.

"In particular, in the matter of the choice of printing press for the Collegian, the choice must be subject to the provisions of the new government procurement law that prescribes bidding," he said.

Choice of printing press

Cao said he had met with representatives of the paper in hopes of resolving the matter, but the editors were "adamant about not undergoing this kind of government bidding procedure."

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Cao said: "I have actually offered the Collegian a way to be financially independent: They collect the fees themselves so they don't become public funds. They refused."

But Gumban insisted that the issue was no longer about a simple disagreement over the nature of the Collegian funds.

"The administration says it's just a policy issue, but by forcing us to submit to the Government Procurement Act, they are withholding our fund, and in effect, the lifeblood of the paper," he said.

He said the editorial board would not allow the UP administration to conduct a bidding among printing presses, standard policy for government funds under Republic Act No. 9184, precisely because Collegian funds were not public funds.

Gumban said the staff was not willing to give in, particularly on the choice of printing press, in order to protect the editorial board's fiscal autonomy as mandated by the Campus Journalism Act.

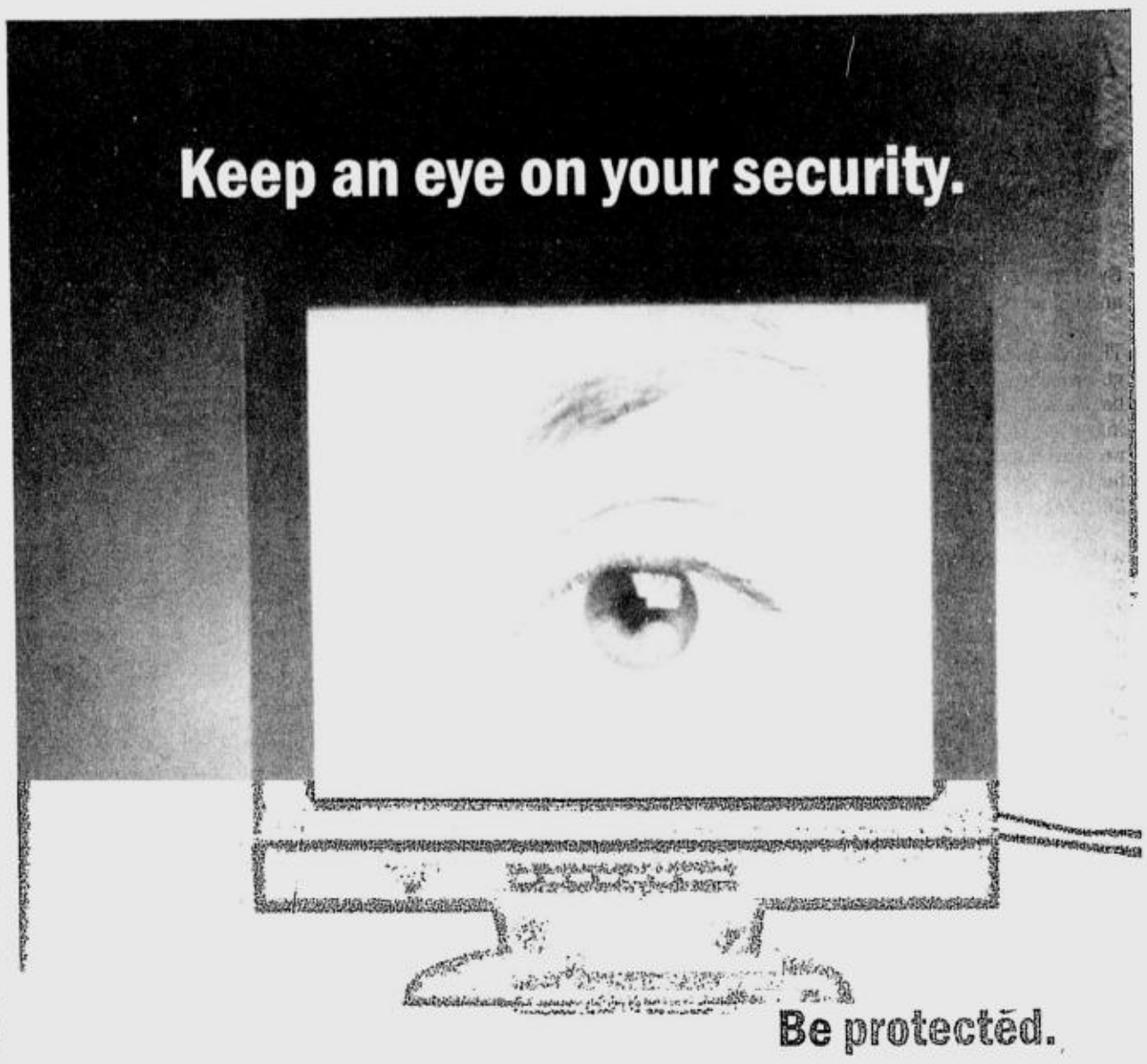
"If we give in, it would set a dangerous precedent. It's better to fight for our principles at this stage, so we won't be compromised in the future," he said.

Repercussions

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), which has been closely watching the developments, said it was siding with the Collegian on the issue.

"In our view, the objective of the administration is to silence the Collegian. They may say that they are only implementing the law, but their actions are obviously colored by such an objective," said CEGP president Jose Cosido.

He said the Collegian's woes might have repercussions on other campus publications throughout the country, considering its long and proud history.



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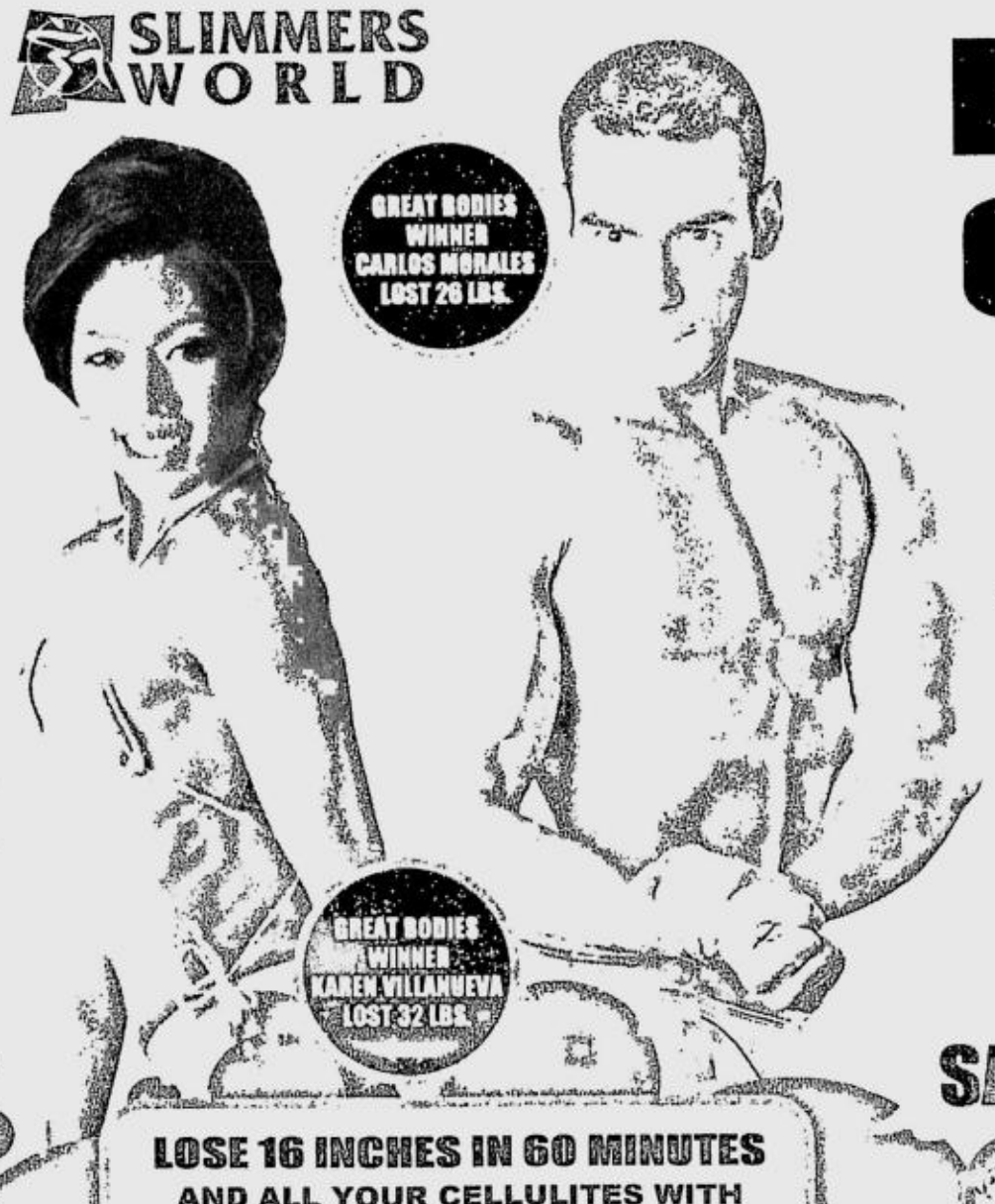

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Palace stops oath-taking of new nurses

From page A1

consideration. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that deferring the oath-taking would allow the National Bureau of Investigation to identify who among the passers had attended the final coaching sessions conducted by the three review centers.

He said the NBI could find more "passers" who should retake the board exam aside from the 1,687 examinees who the appellate court said should take the new test.

The court ordered a retake of Tests III (medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing) for 1,687 examinees who were added to the list of passers after the PRC recomputed the test scores.

Of the 42,006 who took the board exams on June 11 and 12 at 11 test centers across the country, 17,821 or 42 percent passed.

"Everything is (on hold) until those procedural matters are finalized," Ermita told reporters.

He said he hoped to complete all this "within 15 days" before the Court of Appeals' decision is deemed final and executory.

PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero is interviewed by reporters as hundreds of nursing board test "passers" gather at the PRC auditorium to attend the scheduled oath-taking ceremony. REM ZAMORA

Conciliation talks

Ermita said delaying the oath-taking would also allow Brion to hold "conciliation" talks with the parties concerned to discourage them from delaying the retake of the exams by filing a motion for reconsideration.

"[Others] might go to the Supreme Court and everything would be (put on hold)," the executive secretary said.

The decision to defer the oath-taking came after a meeting among Ermita, Brion and Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura.

Malacañang favors a partial retake of the board exams to be conducted before the regular nursing licensure exam scheduled for Dec. 2 and 3.

But other groups, including nursing schools and a presidential adviser, favor a retake of the licensure exam by all the June examinees to restore public confidence in Filipino nurses.

At the PRC office, Josefino Lorenzo, president of the Alliance of Parents of the June 2006 Nursing Licensure Exam Passers, said the suspension of the oath-taking was unfair.

"It hurts. It hurts so much," said Lorenzo, a retired colonel. "The children have long been suffering. They cannot move on."

Many graduates have been suffering from the lack of job opportunities because they cannot register as nurses and get their licenses, he said.

He called on other parents to join the group and participate in their plans, including mass actions.

Moved to tears

Adding to the disappointment felt by the nursing graduates and their parents at the PRC yesterday was the release of the names of the 1,687 graduates who would have to retake Tests III and V pursuant to the Court of Appeals' order.

Some of those on the list were moved to tears when they saw their names.

"It's unfair. They posted the names of passers. It was published. And then we'll have a retake? What kind of justice do we have," said a 20-year-old graduate of a college in Laguna, her voice breaking. "It's very frustrating."

She said those who would be made to retake the two tests had been sacrificed. "Instead of the 17,000 who were supposed to undergo the retake, it would just be us so that the population of retakers would be small," she said.

She said she came to the PRC office, hoping that she would be able to process her papers in preparation for her oath-taking.

However, she was met with the news that she was among those who have to undergo the retake.

Parents in the dark

"My parents don't know yet. I don't know if I want to go home and tell them about this," she said, breaking into tears again.

She said she would wait for the finality of the appellate court's decision, which will come in 15 days, to find out whether the retake would push through.

The names of the 1,687 graduates who should retake the exam were released at noon yesterday. The list was posted on boards along the narrow sidewalk outside the PRC office, which meant that those who wanted to take a look had to jostle for space.

From the throng of people, shouts of joy would erupt from small groups after they failed to find their names. Some walked away in tears after they saw their names. Others had grim expressions, having seen their friends' names and having to break the news to them.

PRC Chair Leonor Rosero announced at the PRC auditorium that the oath-taking would not push through at almost 5 p.m. It was met with groans of disappointment.

Board resignation

Most of the crowd expected the oath-taking not to push through, having heard about it from the media even before Rosero arrived. Still, the graduates and parents waited for her to read the official announcement. After the announcement, they left while talking among themselves about their dismay.

In Malacañang, Ermita announced that the resignation of the seven-member Board of Nursing (BON) had been accepted.

Brion had already submitted a list of candidates for the BON. From 31 names, it was down to eight names for consideration.

Those to be appointed would prepare the questions not only for the retake but also for the regular nursing board exam scheduled in December.

"Please take note also that there will be a regular national nursing examination on Dec. 2 and 3. So there will be two examinations, one probably before Dec. 2 for those who were ordered to make a selective retake, and second for the regular examination in December for the regular examinees," Ermita said.

Nursing groups seek reconsideration

From page A1

guments, the lawyer for Gapuz admitted that the review center and its sister company, Millenium Review Specialists, "have 21 branches nationwide."

The petitioners said "this multiplied the chances that the leaked test questions were extensively disseminated."

"If the effect of the leakage remains in the (exams), the integrity of the examination remains in question. This cannot be separated, and cannot be solved by tolerating the leak, thereafter pronouncing that since it was not widespread, it does not affect the (exams) on the whole," they said.

Via satellite

They said they did not agree with the court's ruling that the leak did not go beyond Manila and Baguio, "especially because one of the review centers identified had branches in the Visayas and Mindanao."

"Witness Dennis Bautista tried to tell the (National Bureau of Investigation) that at the final coaching of the Gapuz Review Center in Manila, Ricarte A. Gapuz himself boasted that the coaching was done live via satellite, including to the Cebu and Davao branches of the review center," they said.

"Petitioners needed to be informed of the details of the report of investigation on how the leakage spread and who could be held liable for the trouble the leaked caused."

The petitioners also questioned the court order for a retake by the 1,687 examinees whose names were merely added to the list of passers after the Board of Nursing and the Professional Regulation Commission ordered a recomputation of the scores for Tests III and V.

Discriminated against

By ordering a "selective retake," the court "discriminated against those who passed but did not cheat, and those who did not pass and who did not cheat; and it favored those who passed and cheated," they said.

By "singling out" the 1,687 examinees, the petitioners said the court's move "runs against the constitutional right to equal protection of laws, or the right of a person belonging to a particular group not to be treated differently because of who or what he is or what he possesses."

Thus, the petitioners said the 1,687 were "unreasonably classified as only those entitled to a retake because of the leak, and defeats the right to equal protection of the law of the other examinees in the same situation."

"To erase this discrimination, and treat all examinees fairly, retake of Tests III and V for everyone is still the best option," they said. "(T)he inconvenience of retaking one test is not intolerable given its benefit to all."

All we want for Christmas ...

From page A1

Bautista said it was not enough for the city government to provide extraction services to those with tooth problems. It should also help the poor get a full set of new teeth.

This way, "they will again enjoy their meals and (be able to) smile like everyone else," Bautista said.

The project envisions giving full sets of dentures to 30 people in each of the city's four districts. Recipients will be chosen after a screening process in which age will be a priority—meaning the older the toothless resident is, the better his chances of getting a free set of dentures.

First beneficiaries

Those who still have some teeth left will also get free services. Under the criteria, the fewer teeth a person has, the more chances he'll have of getting his gaps filled.

At the launch of the project, the first batch of beneficiaries, numbering 25, had the wax patterns for their dentures set. A second batch will have theirs in February.

The other signatories to the MOA were Ed Baldoria, secretary to the vice mayor, and Ma. Teresa Mariano, head of the city's social services development department.

Costly porcelain

The free denture project is part of the monthlong celebration of Quezon City's 67th Foundation Day, which fell on Oct. 12.

Inquiries showed that the cost of getting new dentures ranged from P200 to P400 per tooth. Porcelain cost more than plastic teeth.

No information was available on how many people in the city were toothless.

Israeli president faces rape charges

From page A1

could be charged if impeached by the Knesset.

"There is sufficient evidence indicating that in several cases ... the president carried out acts of rape, forced sexual acts, sexual acts without consent and sexual harassment," police said in a statement on Sunday.

"There is sufficient evidence indicating violation of the law banning wire-tapping by the president," police said following a meeting with investigators and Attorney General Menachem Mazuz.

Repeated denials

The 60-year-old Katsav reiterated his denial of the allegations and vowed to clear his name.

"The president was surprised and shocked by the police recommendations," a statement from his office said. "He repeats that he is a victim of a plot and that sooner or later the allegations against him will be proven false."

KATSAV

The attorney general is expected to decide within two to three weeks whether to file an indictment against Katsav, a married father of five.

The Iranian-born president, who has rejected calls that he step down pending the investigation, could face between three and 16 years in prison if convicted.

The charges are the most serious faced by an Israeli leader, although several other top figures, including former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, have faced probes of allegations of corruption.

The sex scandal threatened to overshadow the opening of the new session of parliament.

Wave of protests

Katsav earlier said he would preside over the Knesett's opening despite the police statement, but later cancelled his appearance after a wave of protests from lawmakers.

"In view of the circumstances, Mr. Katsav will not take part in the opening of parliament's winter session on Monday," his office said.

In recent weeks, police have investigated no fewer than 10 complaints of rape and sexual harassment by former employees of Katsav during his tenure as president and as tourism minister.

The president has been questioned by police five times over allegations that he forced women employees to have sex with him by abusing his position of authority.

Police sources now say that an indictment could be filed in three or four of these cases.

Katsav, a member of the right-wing Likud party, was elected president by members of the Knesett in July 2000 as a relative outsider who upset front-runner Shimon Peres, an ex-premier and Nobel peace laureate.

The presidency is a largely symbolic post in Israel where political power is largely in the hands of the prime minister.

No legal authority

"Police have no legal authority to make any recommendations of this type," said Katsav's attorney Zion Amir.

"This is not the first time police have recommended the indictment of senior figures, including prime ministers, and those recommendations have all been rejected," Amir added.

Katsav has been under criminal investigation since July, when a senior female aide complained she was sexually harassed while working under him. The president filed a simultaneous complaint to the attorney general against the aide for extortion.

But police on Sunday said that there was no substantial evidence to back accusations by Katsav's legal team that one of the complainants attempted to blackmail him over the rape allegations.

Latest blow

The Katsav case is the latest blow to Israel's leadership, with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's government steering its way through public anger over failings in its 34-day war against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

If Katsav is forced out of office, he will become the second Israeli president in a row to resign amid scandal.

His predecessor, the late Ezer Weizman, resigned after revelations that he received around $450,000 as "gifts" from French millionaire Edouard Saroussi in the 1980s, when Weizman was a member of the Knesett and minister. *AFP*

Quake strikes Hawaii; gov declares disaster

From page A1

damage to buildings and roads. There were reported fatalities, but state civil defense officials received several reports of minor injuries.

The quake hit at 7:07 a.m. local time (1607 GMT) Sunday, 16 kilometers north-northwest of Kailua Kona, a town on the west coast of Hawaii Island, also known as the Big Island, said Don Blakeman, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Center, part of the US Geological Survey.

Blakeman said there was no risk of a Pacific-wide tsunami, but there was a possibility of significant wave activity in Hawaii.

The Pacific Tsunami Center reported a preliminary magnitude of 6.5, while the US Geological Survey gave a preliminary magnitude of 6.6. The earthquake was followed by several strong aftershocks, including one measuring a magnitude of 5.8, according to the Geological Survey. Experts said aftershocks could continue for weeks.

Rocking, rolling

"We were rocking and rolling," said Anne LaVasseur, who was on the second floor of a two-story, wood-framed house on the east side of the Big Island when the temblor struck.

"I was pretty scared. We were swaying back and forth, like King Kong's pushing your house back and forth," she added.

Mayor Harry Kim estimated that as many as 3,000 people were being evacuated from three hotels on the Big Island. Brad Kurokawa, Hawaii County deputy planning director, confirmed the hotels were damaged, but could not say how many people had left.

The evacuees were taken to a gymnasium until alternate accommodations could be found, Kim said.

Water pipes exploded at Aston Kona By The Sea, an 86-unit condominium resort, creating a dramatic waterfall down the front of the hotel from the fourth floor, said Kenneth Piper, who runs the front desk.

"We are a concrete building, but we really shook. You could almost see the cars bouncing up and down in the parking garage," Piper said.

The quake caused widespread power outages; phone communication was difficult. By midday Sunday, power was restored to Hilo on the Big Island and was starting to be restored to Maui, said Chuck Anthony, a spokesperson for the Hawaii National Guard.

Some Honolulu neighborhoods also had power by late Sunday afternoon, a spokesperson for Hawaiian Electric Co. said. Officials did not have a firm estimate of how many people were without power.

Lingle told radio station KSSK that she toured the Kona area by helicopter to view the damage, including earth falling into Kealakekua Bay.

"You could see the water was turning brown," said Lingle.

A computer simulation of the quake estimated that as many as 170 bridges on the Big Island could have suffered damage in the temblor, said Bob Fenton, a regional disaster official. More than 50 federal officials were en route to the Big Island to assess damage and begin recovery work, he said.

Landslide

On Hawaii Island, there was some damage in Kailua-Kona and a landslide along a major highway, said Gerard Fryer, a geophysicist at the Pacific Tsunami Center. Officials also said there were reports of people trapped in elevators in Oahu.

In Waikiki, one of the state's primary tourism areas, worried visitors began lining up outside convenience stores to purchase food, water and other supplies. Managers were letting tourists into the darkened stores one at a time.

Kona Community Hospital on the western side of Big Island was evacuated after ceilings collapsed and power was cut off, according to hospital spokesperson Terry Lewis. Power was restored later, and the emergency room was accepting patients, hospital officials said.

Airports were functioning despite the power outages, although travel was difficult and some flights were being canceled, officials said.

Epicenter

The quake hit roughly 240 km southwest of Honolulu's Oahu Island, near a much less populated area. The Big Island has about 167,000 people, according to a 2005 Census estimate, and many of them live in and around Hilo, on the opposite site from where the quake was centered.

Earthquakes in the 6.0 magnitude range are rare in the region, though they have happened before. The region more commonly sees temblors in the 3- to 4-magnitude range caused by volcanic activity. *AP*

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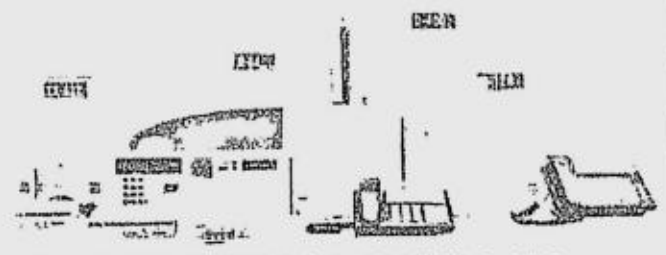

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 17, 2006
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Ignatius of Antioch

1st Reading: Gal 5:1-6
Gospel: Luke 11:37-41

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But according to you, by the mere giving of alms everything is made clean."

Commentary

Stand firm, stay free, stay with the grace of Jesus, shared with us in the power of the Spirit. What matters is the expression of our faith in actions that bring love to others: food, clothing/shelter, medicine, support, release from burdens and oppression. What we do for the Body of Christ—this is living our faith. Jesus too is intent on teaching us that it is not the law, or details or traditions, that make us faithful, but our intent and practice. We are to touch those in need, give alms and treat people with respect just as our God treats us.

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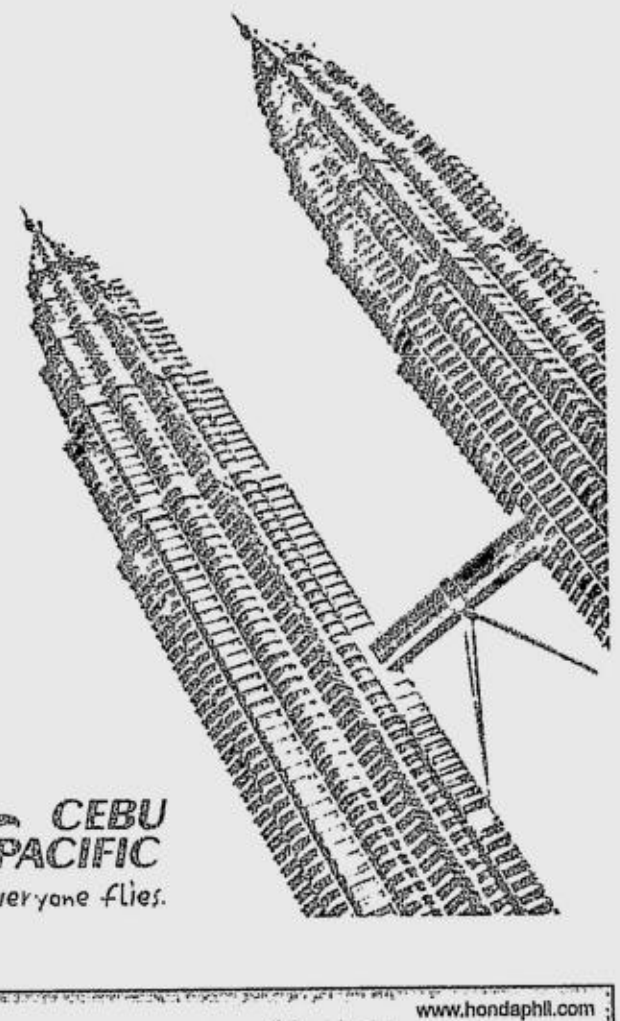

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The many ways of battling poverty

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MAGALANG, PAMPANGA—Poverty grips people in different ways.

For Sarah Pabelico, 17, it meant growing up without her mother, who has been working in Hong Kong as a domestic helper.

For Paolo Lajom, it means having to depend on the help of an aunt.

For traffic enforcer Romeo Tungcab, the way out of poverty is through interest-free loans from relatives.

They're not extremely poor but that's only because they have found ways of coping. Still, the hard times make survival difficult, they said.

Pabelico's father has opened a sari-sari store at their home in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan to augment his wife's income. The double earnings allow Pabelico to study at the University of the Philippines in Clark.

"It is sad that mother is away but at least we are able to study," Pabelico, a second-year business economics student, said in Filipino.

She hopes to enter graduate school later and eventually convince her mother to stop working overseas. She was in Grade 6 when her mother started working abroad.

Hard times

Lajom, a policeman's son, is able to go to college with the help of the weekly allowance he gets from his aunt.

He said his father ran into hard times after the interest on a housing loan began piling up and eating up much of his paycheck.

Lajom's mother works as a bookkeeper in a lodge in Baliuag, Bulacan, to support two other children.

"My parents try to make both ends meet but often, the money is not enough," said the UP-Clark economics student.

Resisting temptation

Tungcab's P3,200 salary every 15 days is not enough to raise three children aged 11, 6 and 3.

The temptation to extort money from jeepney drivers is always there, especially during emergencies, but Tungcab said he resists it by borrowing from relatives.

He felt some relief when he got a pay raise. Now, his daily pay is P300 from P198 a year ago.

Age-old problems

Rod Custodio of Llanera, Nueva Ecija, said farmers like him had remained poor owing to lack of access to technology, credit, irrigation and post-harvest facilities, and also because the prices of crops were low.

"These were the problems identified in a 1903 study and these are the same problems we confront now," he said.

Now 71, Custodio said he had not lost all hope. This year, his group, the Unlad Buhay Cooperative, started raising 1,000 pigs on organic feeds.

But economic hardship has also hit the cooperative and its membership dwindled from 700 in 1974 to 50 this year.

"Many have stopped because of the difficulties that come with farming," he said.

Microcredit option

In Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, a way out of poverty through microcredit has been offered by Talete Keng Panyulung Kapampangan (Bridge for the Progress of the Kapampangan), a nongovernment organization.

"We started with only P6,000 18 years ago. Now we're lending P3 million a day to small enterprises in the province," said Ferdinand Caylao, a TKPK trustee.

There are other ways of battling poverty, said Abraham Gorospe Jr., leader of the Lifeline Creative Ministries Foundation.

A long fight

The Christian group holds musical concerts, conducts outreach activities in communities, feeds street children, and organizes camps and retreats to foster spiritual revival among the youth.

Dr. Grace Gorospe-Jamon, regional chair of the Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines, said the antipoverty campaign should be a lifetime commitment because the problem could not be solved in a few decades.

Of Central Luzon's 8.1 million population, at least 1.4 million are considered poor.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

AN ARTISAN wears slippers designed as a moving diorama of New York's Twin Towers which were destroyed in terror attacks.

Belgian delegates slam GMA on killings

By Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

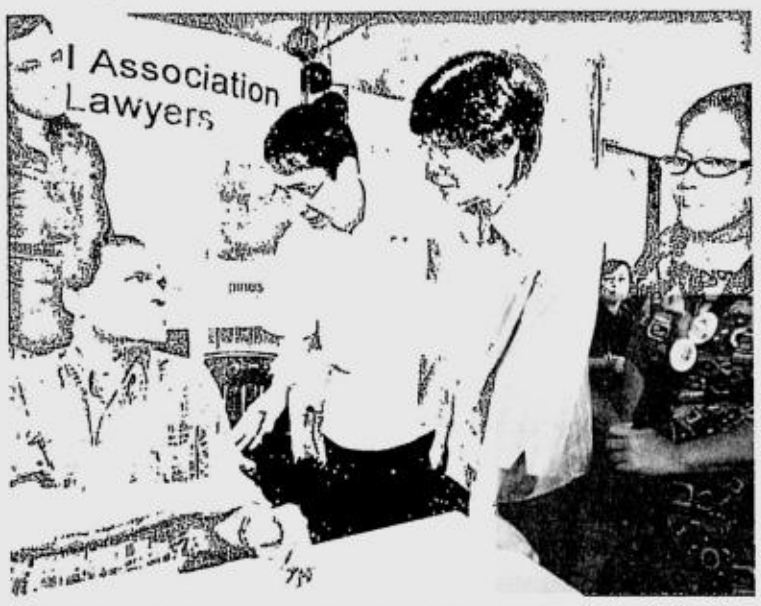
DAVAO CITY—DELEGATES TO the three-day forum of the International Association of People's Lawyers slammed the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for the upsurge in alleged political killings in the Philippines.

Belgian lawyer Rafael Jespers said Europe was very concerned about the political violence.

"With more than 700 people getting killed since the start of the Arroyo administration, it means that 10 people are getting killed in a month. It's a very serious thing," Jespers said in a news conference at the close of the meeting on Sunday.

The meeting also expressed concern at the disappearances of Church leaders, activists, lawyers, peasant leaders, human rights workers and journalists and held the Arroyo administration responsible for them.

Human rights lawyers were also becoming targets of political harassment, it said.



DELEGATES to the International Association of People's Lawyers forum (from left) Jo Dereymaeker of Belgium, Sebastian Pellisery of India and Edry Olalia talk to Evangeline Hernandez, mother of a slain Ateneo student, and Lynda Cadapan, mother of a still missing UP student. JOAN BONDOC

"It only shows that the Philippines is one of the world's worst places for human rights defenders to be," another Belgian delegate, Jo Dereymaeker, said. "This should not be how things should be handled. Europe and the rest of the world should watch these happenings very closely and should react."

Dereymaeker said she had been in the Cordillera in the last four years and also in Samar where she met with victims of human rights violations, and "where people showed me their torture marks when they were abducted by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)."

Killings a state policy

"We want to bring these political killings to the international forum because the Arroyo administration has never been a government of the people in the first place. It has always been a tool of repression," said Frederico Gapuz, president of the Union of People's Lawyers in Mindanao.

Lawyer Romeo Capulong said political killings had become state policy carried out with impunity.

"There's no more doubt or question about the political killings perpetrated by the forces of the government. The government's lack of political will to stop the killings is part of the huge white-washing machine," Capulong said.

Case in The Hague

He also noted that the way the killings were being committed had changed. "The perpetrators are no longer the motorcycle-riding men who shoot the victim in the streets. They already come to the victim's house and kill them."

Capulong said the victims' groups Hustisya and Selda were building a strong case against the Arroyo administration before the Permanent People's Tribunal in The Hague, the Netherlands, for the human rights violations, disappearances and political killings, and economic plunder.

The lawyers' group also demanded the immediate release of party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, the rejection of the antiterror bill, withdrawal of all US troops in Mindanao, resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front, and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

Comedians stand up vs poverty

From page A1

ing the event to the people.

But the curious were more fascinated by the participating artists, who came wearing creatively designed slippers, including a pair shaped like the Twin Towers of New York City after they were destroyed by terrorists using hijacked airliners as missiles.

Like a reality show

Although comedians Eros Goze and Julius Matabia took potshots at various issues contributing to poverty, they focused their best jokes on the country's ambiguous cultural and political response to sexuality and population management.

"*Ba't nga ganoon? Kung mayaman ka at* date *ka nang* date, *ang tawag sa iyo 'game,' pero kung mahirap ka, ang tawag sa iyo 'pakawala'?* (Why is that if you are rich and you date a lot, you're referred to as being 'game,' but if you're poor, you're called a loose woman?)," said Goze.

He said life in the country was like a reality show, where people gamble on the slim chance they will at least win something.

Cordillera's example

But like some overseas Filipino workers, whom Goze and Matabia described as "*bigong bayani* (failed heroes)," they come home empty-handed.

During a forum on poverty at the University of the Philippines Baguio, Juan Ngalob, Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority, reflected on how bad population management policies helped perpetuate poverty.

He said people must simply "practice" safe sex and ignore the debates that had muddled the country's population control program.

Ngalob cited the success of the Cordillera, which used to be one of the country's poorest regions, in reducing its number of poor families from 122,942 in 1994 to 72,084 in 2003.

Drowning good news

Ifugao, which used to be the country's fourth poorest province, has "graduated from the Club 20 of poorest provinces," he said.

But the good news is drowned by the low probability that by 2015, the government could eradicate Cordillera hunger, reduce the region's infant mortality rate, increase the immunization levels of children and pregnant mothers, or even expand access to sanitary toilets.

Ngalob said he saw portable plastic toilets being used as water receptacles in impoverished Cordillera towns where water is scarce.

What statistics hide

But former dean Lorelei Mendoza of UP Baguio said the country needed a better way to measure "the levels of deprivation" plaguing Filipinos.

Glenita Amoranto, a poverty expert at the National Statistical Coordination Board, told the forum that experts were working on a new statistical method because "official poverty measures ... may not be sufficient since they hide the significant [aspects] of local conditions."

Her presentation cited provinces "that have less poverty overall [but which] may have substantial pockets of poverty that are lost in the aggregate poverty statistics."

Gov't failed to prevent killings, says Senate

From page A1

Senators Ralph Recto, Richard Gordon, Manuel "Lito" Lapid, Juan Ponce Enrile, Pia Cayetano, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, and from the opposition, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim, Sergio Osmeña III and Jamby Madrigal.

The Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, justice and human rights, and public information and mass media chaired by Senators Manuel Villar, Joker Arroyo and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., respectively, conducted an inquiry after Gordon delivered a privilege speech, "Justice for Journalists and Judges," on Aug. 9, 2004.

Only 5 cases solved

The investigation covered the killings of 78 journalists from 1986 to May 2006, and 10 judges since 1999. Only five convictions in the cases of journalist killings had been turned in.

In killings involving judges, the solution rate was even lower.

The Senate said that of 78 cases of journalists killed since 1986, only five suspects had been convicted.

The Senate said the alarming rate prompted international media organizations such as the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders and the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists to tag the Philippines as the most dangerous nation for journalists outside war zones.

It said 10 judges had been murdered since 1999. The victims included Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Henrick Gingoyon, who ordered the government to pay P3 billion to the private consortium that built Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

It said that because of the threats to judges, the Supreme Court issued a resolution in 2004 abolishing heinous crimes courts because their judges were vulnerable targets of vindictive litigants.

Professionalize, media told

The Senate also recommended that the media professionalize its ranks as its first line of defense against harassment and abuse.

It said the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility identified the problems that include a lack of institutional identification, lack of formal education, failure of media owners to "supervise broadcast press' responsibility," and failure to train them to protect themselves.

Most of the victims were broadcast and freelance journalists who worked in the provinces and lacked training, the Senate said.

"In particular, broadcast journalists should be licensed before they are allowed to go on air. The committees agree that professionalizing media is crucial in improving the lot of the organizations," it said.

The Senate said the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas and the Philippine Press Institute must enforce an accreditation process as a first step to professionalizing the media. It said journalists must adhere to tenets of balanced and responsible journalism and ethics.

No effort to reform

"The committees recognize that an independent media is essential to a free society. However, equal stress must be given to media's duty to remain fair. As the FFFJ (Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists) said, responsibility is the media's best protection," the report said.

"Sadly, even as its ranks slowly dwindle, there have been no efforts on the part of media to turn things around and they content themselves (with) badgering law enforcers for their incompetence," it said.

As for judges, the Senate said preventing their killing was impossible but they should also not be made easy targets for vendetta.

"Judges remain poorly paid, overburdened and susceptible to the influence of the powerful. Lawyers cannot be enticed to apply for judgeships, proven by the many vacant salas nationwide," it said.

Implement Speedy Trial Act

It said heinous crimes must be raffled off to trial courts in the capital cities or provinces and not in remote municipalities where judges were most vulnerable to killings.

But it said there was also a need to strictly implement Republic Act No. 8493 or the Speedy Trial Act.

"Prolonged adjudication of cases in courts is indeed a serious problem. Suspects continue to be detained without trial and delays still hound the (cases). If litigants feel that their cases get the proper attention from unbiased judges, the incidence of murders could be curbed," it said.

The Senate said that if the judiciary maintained its integrity, "attacks will stop."

DENR extortion denounced

From page A1

their way into waterways like the Pasig River. *(See related story on Page A4.)*

Macias said he reported the extortion to the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force two months ago, but he was told to bring it up with the DENR chief.

"These DENR people usually inspect hospitals, even for the first time, and they will tell the hospitals what they lack, and they will demand money," he said in an interview after his unexpected revelation.

Fine

Macias said he had been receiving text messages from hospital executives in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, where DENR officials—whom he did not name—were demanding up to P200,000 in "fines" from the hospitals.

An obviously irked Reyes, who was facilitating the discussion on waste and the Pasig River rehabilitation, all but scolded the PHA president, saying the association should formally bring the case to the DENR.

"You cannot stop at generalization. Specify which DENR office is doing this," Reyes said.

"Maybe the hospitals are violating the law, that's why somebody's asking money from them. You would not give money if you were not violating anything," he said.

Macias cited a case in Isabela where a hospital, which allegedly failed to meet the requirement on waste management contained in its environmental compliance certificate, was fined P50,000.

Notice of violation

The DENR personnel, however, did not serve a notice of violation, cease-and-desist order or any documents detailing the violation. There was also no receipt issued to acknowledge payment of the P50,000 fine.

He said another hospital in Tarlac recently reported that a certain colonel who claimed to represent the DENR was seeking money from the hospital for an unexplained violation.

"If you don't have a sanitary engineer, we'll fine you P50,000 per week," Macias quoted the DENR people as saying.

"How can you survive with all these things?" he said. Another hospital in Marikina City had a similar experience but this was "resolved," he said.

Threatened

The hospital owners did not report the extortion to government authorities because they were scared of the repercussions on their businesses.

"They are also being threatened that they will be monitored closely," Macias said.

Reyes said he would address the hospital owners' problem but they also had to solve the problem of disposing of the hazardous wastes.

"Why don't you just group together and put up a treatment facility? After all, hospitals are businesses, and you're gaining much (profit). So just put up your own plant," Reyes said.

Incinerator

A representative of the Department of Health who attended the dialogue said the country's 25 regional hospitals used to have incinerators, which they used to treat their waste until the Clean Air Act of 1999 was passed. That law bans the use of incinerators.

Only six treatment and disposal facilities for hazardous waste exist in the country. Cavite has two while the Visayas has none.

About 11 tons of hazardous waste from Metro Manila's health care facilities—hospitals, medical schools, funeral parlors, pharmaceutical laboratories, dental and veterinary clinics, health centers, blood banks and research institutions—find their way to waterways and dumps every day.

In August last year, the DENR and the DOH signed an agreement requiring hospitals and other health care institutions to register with the DENR as "hazardous waste generators." The hospitals must also submit a waste treatment plan before the DOH renews their licenses every year.

"It involves billions [of pesos] to put up a plant. The hospitals cannot afford it. Even if we form a corporation, it would be hard," Macias said.

He said a treatment facility would cost no less than P200 million even if the government were to provide the land, as the DENR suggested.

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INQUIRER TV GUIDE Tuesday, October 17, 2006

ABC Iba Tayo! · Finals na! Sabado 9PM · Philippine Idol · ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Mon Colle Knight	Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	TNA Wrestling		Big News	Ultimate Guinness World Records		Todo Max		Philippine Idol	Sentro	ALI		Araw-Araw [illegible]	Letty La Mas Fea
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		My Girl	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Crazy F--- You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)		Worst Case Scenario		The Ult Fighter (Season II)		Beastmaster (Season I)		Max Exposure (Season II)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		30 Seconds To Fame	AXN Extreme Macau	Las Vegas (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)	
bTV				NBA Special Greatest Moments		WNBA Finals Sacramento @ Detroit G2				RP U 2006 NCAA Tour Final Four				NBA Access	NBA Preseason Jazz @ Pistons				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Bobobo/Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Sumpaan				Madrasta				Eto Na Naman Ako				Hari Ng Sablay				Sa Aking Mga Kamay	
Cinemax			Barefoot in the Park (3:35 PM)				The Last Samurai					Waterworld				The School Of Rock (10:10 PM)			
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Closer		E-Ring		Oz	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible]	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science W. Totally Spies	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies/Proud Family Movie	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Women's Pro Billiards '06		NFL Yearbook	X Games 11 Classic - Surf	Pro Billiards '06		NFL Football Bears @ Cardinals						Sportscenter Asia	MLB C'Ship Series Game5 (@ NL)				
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The OC Season 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy, Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man, Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary, Angelus	The Good Code The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (9:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Bahay Mo Ba 'To			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Judging Amy		Defending Our Kids: The Julie Posey Story			
HBO				Back To The Future Part II				Stand By Me			The Cable Guy			Blade Trinity				Six Feet Under: Hold My Hand	
Hero TV	Tokyo Underground	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sports On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics: Arts		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics: Arts	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Experience		Heat		X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		Just For Laughs	James Kennedy Experiment	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show With David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Food 911	Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		E! News Weekend		Martha		Whose Line Is It Anyway?		Napa Style	[illegible] Living
MTV Philippines		Sessions [illegible]	VH1 Fabulous Life of Oprah	VH1 Fabulous Life of Pam Anderson	Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	5 Things About [illegible]	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena	Sessions [illegible]	VH1 Fabulous Life Celeb Couples	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Fresh	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYXellaneous	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Nat Geographic Specials		Hidden Worlds		Predators At War		Top 5		Nat Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Hollywood Science		Hunter Hunted	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp			Dyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talakayan Sa Isyung Pulis		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Replay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible]		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible]		Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Challenge/Nick's Fright Fest	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/[illegible]	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh/[illegible] Nick's Fright Fest	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Pangako Ng Kahapon				Hahabol-Habol				It's Cool Bulol				Sabado Nights				Awesome
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Extreme Makeover Home Edition		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savage	Jake In Progress	Project Runway		Australia's Next Top Model		Good Girls Don't	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports								Boards: WC Pool		Boxing: Marquez [illegible]				ITZ		Sportsdesk		Realworld	
Star Movies			My Date With Drew (3:45 PM)				The Princess Diaries 2				Marked For Death			Frankenstein			Flatliners		
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	One Tree Hill		Desperate Housewives		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	One Tree Hill
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Gilmore Girls	Smallville (8:15 PM)		24		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		

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OPINION

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Media ownership

MALACAÑANG IS URGING THE OPENING UP of mass media to foreign ownership as one of the proposed changes to the Constitution, to boost, it says, the standards of Philippine newspapers and broadcast stations and put them at par with global leaders.

But our mass media are already at par with foreign media, and proof of this is the fact that our leading newspapers and TV and broadcast stations have been winning many international mass media awards. The Philippine Daily Inquirer, for example, has been winning prizes in the yearly competition held by the Society of Publishers in Asia where international media bigwigs like the Asian editions of the Wall Street Journal and Time magazine also compete.

EDITORIAL

We are in favor of the entry of foreign investors into mass media because it would infuse much needed capital into these organizations and make possible the acquisition of the latest equipment and technology. Modern technology, in turn, would help Philippine mass media disseminate news and information more quickly and more efficiently.

Foreign ownership should be limited to 60 percent, however. The Constitution at present limits the ownership and management of mass media to citizens of the Philippines and to corporations, cooperatives or associations wholly owned and managed by Filipino citizens.

Allowing 100 percent foreign ownership could be dangerous because foreign interests may then be in a position to inordinately influence Philippine politics, the economy and society. As it is, even with the constitutional prohibition on foreign ownership of Philippine mass media, foreign mass media are already exerting a strong influence on all facets of Philippine society. The influence could become stronger if the Philippines were to allow 100 percent ownership.

The Philippine media cannot afford to ignore the phenomenon of globalization in the mass media. Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel, authors of "The Elements of Journalism," said that "as companies, especially communication companies, become corporations without borders, the notion of citizenship and traditional community becomes in a commercial sense obsolete." They said that globalization changes the content that these "borderless" communication companies produce. But still, with a 60 percent cap on foreign ownership, we believe the Filipinos in the mass media that are partly owned by foreigners could continue to have a strong voice in deciding the content that should be offered to the Philippine audience.

Relaxing the prohibition on foreign ownership of mass media would certainly enable broadcast stations and newspapers to acquire state-of-the-art equipment and technology that would put them at par with international media organizations in the coverage and the dissemination of the news.

The entry of foreign investors in mass media would make it possible for media entities to send more Filipino journalists as correspondents in the key cities of the world. At present, with their limited financial resources the mass media can afford to maintain correspondents in only a few cities. With increased financing the mass media would be able to raise the number of their correspondents abroad, and their reporting would then have a more comprehensive and extensive global cast. In this age when the world has become one big global media village, the Philippine media cannot afford to be parochial in their coverage.

The opening up of the mass media to foreign investors could also further heat up the competition among newspapers and broadcast stations, and result in the improvement of the quality of their services. There's nothing like strong competition to motivate the striving of any service enterprise for excellence.

Modern equipment and technology are certainly needed, especially in the provinces where the community newspapers do a heroic job of informing the people about the latest developments in their communities, their nation and the world. More modern mass media companies would make Filipino citizens better informed. Better informed citizens would be able to make better decision on matters that affect their lives. Ultimately, we believe that the entry of foreign investors in the mass media would work to the best interest of the nation and its citizens.

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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

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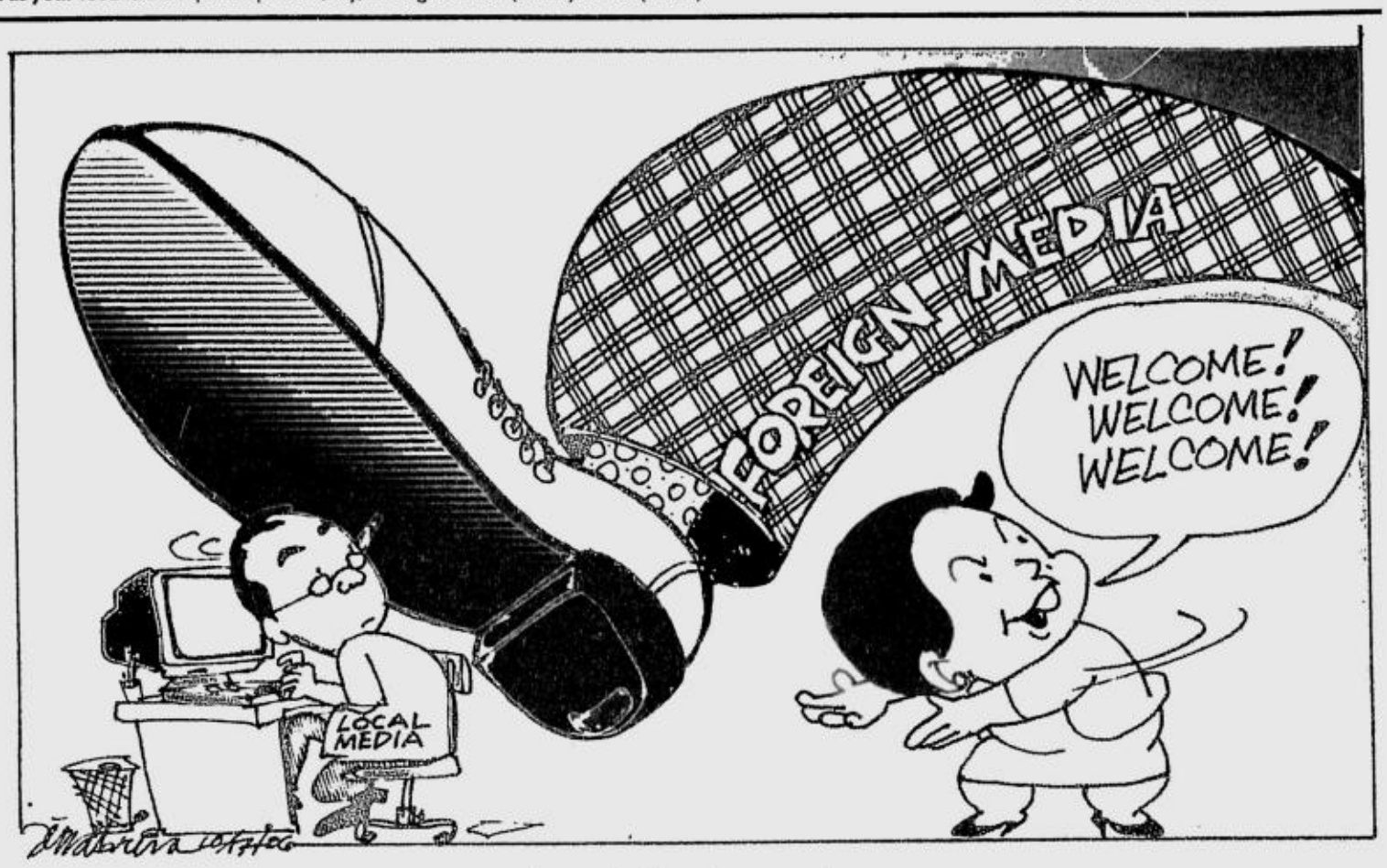

Embedded violence

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THEIR JAWS DROPPED," THE MALAYSIA Star wrote of journalists who were stunned that Bangladesh economist Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize. The 66-year-old Yunus leveraged "micro-credit" to enable indigents, using even P450 (US$9) loans, to break free from penury.

Exactly 191 nominees vied for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Traditionally, it goes to those who sheathe the sword. Thus, the smart money picked the agreement between the Indonesian government and Aceh rebels to stop the bloodletting. Instead, the Nobel Committee chose a banker to the neediest people, crammed into one of the world's poorest nations. Have the award's scope changed?

Look at previous laureates. In 1979, the Nobel went to a simple nun in Calcutta's slums, Mother Teresa. "The loneliest, the most wretched and the dying have, at her hands, received compassion without condescension, based on reverence for man," the citation stressed. In 2004, Kenyan ecologist Wangari Maathai won for mobilizing poor women to plant 30 million trees, despite opposition (which is relevant to a denuded Philippines).

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, 22 years back, cited a fledging experiment that a then little-known Yunus launched to provide collateral-free loans to impoverished women no commercial bank would touch.

"Instead of generating billions of words about poverty, we can find ways to cope with it by continuous creation of assets by the poor," Yunus said in his response. The foundation took a "big risk in choosing me and demonstrating confidence in our work... In 1984, we reached only 100,000 in a population of more than 90 million."

Today, Grameen Bank has disbursed $5 billion in loans averaging P6,500 ($130). Nine out of every 10 borrowers are rural women who use the loans to finance livelihood projects. Repayment rate is a stunning 99 percent, ensuring sustainability. The project has been replicated in over 100 countries now, including a pale troubled Philippine copy.

"Across cultures and civilizations, (Yunus and Grameen Bank) have shown that the poorest of the poor can bring about their own development," the Nobel citation reads. "Loans to poor people, without any financial security, appeared an impossible idea. [They] developed microcredit into an important liberating force in societies where women ... must struggle against repressive conditions. Every single individual... has both the potential and the right to live a decent life."

And that includes beggars. In 2003, Yunus added a radical program to Grameen Bank targeting Bangladesh's beggars. Cyclones, floods, divorce, illness and ignorance reduce many into lifetime mendicants. In the "Struggling Members Program," no one is tagged by the demeaning word "beggar." A typical loan amounts to taka 500 (US$9). No interest is charged; nor is collateral sought. For some, Grameen Bank makes credit-line arrangements with shops, up to a given amount. This enables "struggling members" to sell bread, candy, pickles, etc. The repayment schedule is decided by the member. Installments are set by what they earn. There is only one condition: repayment money must not come from begging.

"The word 'micro-credit' did not exist before the '70s," Yunus told the Deccan Herald. "Now it's a buzz word ... imputed to mean everything to everybody. Grameen created a methodology and an institution around financial needs of the poor and provided access to credit, on reasonable terms.

"This enabled the poor to build on their existing skill to earn a better income in each cycle of loans... Charity is not an answer to poverty. It only creates dependency and takes away individual's initiative. Unleashing of energy and creativity in each human being is the answer to poverty."

"You cannot go on having absurd amounts of wealth when other people have problems of survival," Yunus said in Dhaka. "As a bank you have to reach the poor people. [The Nobel Prize] is a big change. And banking will not be the same."

The Philippines also has plenty of bankers, skills, credit—plus a surplus of good intentions. In fact, it created a raft of rural banks and private development banks to funnel subsidized credit to the poor.

"The results of these efforts have been generally disappointing," writes Mario Lamberte of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. "Credit subsidies went to those who did not need them most, [leaving] target beneficiaries without access to external funds. Worse, their repayment records were very poor, making the credit programs unsustainable. [It] caused the collapse of several rural and private development banks."

Can the "unbankable" be helped without cloning the very problems that scuttled previous special credit programs? Bogged down in endless political squabbles, we've not bothered to find the answers even as our hordes of beggars increase.

Will we begin, now that the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize reiterates the basic message of the 1984 Magsaysay Award to Yunus: unrelieved poverty is violence. And its capacity to savage human lives and hopes are magnified when they are embedded in laws and institutions.

"More people die each year from poverty than from war," Sverre Lodgaard of the Nobel Committee told the BBC. "This is not the first time the Committee awarded the Peace Prize for work to overcome poverty and distress in the world which constitute a threat to peace."

Indeed, as Albert Camus once wrote: "There is no battle worth waging than that for peace."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

No will, no way

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER AGAIN SOMETHING FROM MY tour of Germany in late 2002 to observe the elections there. A political expert had just given us an overview of the dynamics of elections in that country and opened the floor to questions. I wondered why no one was asking a question that seemed, from where I stood, to be the most obvious one. So I rose to ask it: To what extent did cheating happen in German elections?

The speaker reacted to my question in exactly the same way a Japanese political officer would later react to my question if any political figure in Japan had ever switched parties. He found it near-incomprehensible. He paused, trying to digest the concept. After a while he said, "Well, there's this small village in the former East that raised complaints of cheating during the last elections. I think that was solved by the voters being made to vote all over again."

In this country, the one question we would find near-incomprehensible, which would make us scratch our heads and answer only after a long pause, is: "To what extent are our elections clean?" One can always point to some brave school teachers who report cheating or who guard election boxes with their lives, but that is all. Indeed, what makes their action stand out is the fact that we expect cheating to happen—a thing that transforms simple acts of honesty into rare displays of courage.

Other countries have internalized not cheating in elections to a point of instinct, which translates verbally into, "It's just not done." We have internalized cheating to a point of instinct, which translates verbally into, "There's no such thing as clean elections."

I remember, when I was trying to quit smoking ages ago, reading something that made a tremendous impact on me, which was that not smoking was just as powerful an instinct, if not more so, than smoking. If you could just quit smoking for a while, the instinct of not smoking would take over and stop you from smoking again. I did, and it did.

I figure the same is true of cheating in elections. The fact that cheating does not occur at all or as resolutely in elections in other countries must show that not cheating is just as powerful an instinct, if not more so, than cheating. I wonder when we can stop cheating in elections, for the instinct of not cheating to kick in.

These thoughts were sparked by the sight of people preparing for next year's elections, which I've been seeing more and more frequently of late. It's good that the party-list groups in particular are doing so themselves (heaven knows Congress can do with some addition of decent people in its ranks). But my question is: What guarantee is there those preparations will not be for naught? Or more pointedly, what guarantee is there that administration candidates won't cheat the hell out of the voters the way their boss did in 2004?

So far all we've done is look at the technical aspects of trying to stop cheating. The Commission on Elections has already announced that the military will no longer be used extensively in elections, as though cheating were more the province of the military than the civilians. Just as well, Dick Gordon's committee seems bent on finding ways to computerize next year's elections, something that should have been done the last time, except that Benjamin Abalos messed it up and got rewarded for it.

I have no problems with these initiatives and applaud them. We can do with Hermogenes Esperon and the other generals, who are mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape as having participated electoral fraud, never having anything to do with elections again. I wouldn't even mind if they were forbidden on pain of the firing squad from ever uttering the word "vote" or "election" again. And we most assuredly can do with computerizing canvassing. The longer the counting takes, the bigger the cheating gets.

But we're looking only at the way and not the will. The concept still remains: Where there's a will there's a way. The reverse is not always true: Where there's a way there's a will. And there's the very big rub. As far as will goes, two things stand formidably in the way of clean elections in 2007.

The first is: What's to deter administration candidates from openly, flagrantly and forcibly stealing the vote? As the 2004 elections show, that is a crime for which there is no punishment. Indeed, as the 2004 elections show, that is a deed for which there is much reward. To this day GMA, who stands indicted by the "Hello Garci" tape, serves as president of this country. Indeed, far more than that, today GMA, whom the majority of Filipinos believe is not the rightful president of this country, feels free to remove from office officials whom the voters did vote for. But I'll have more to say about that in days to come.

The second is: What's to deter cheating in general when the citizens themselves expect cheating to be done and are resigned to accept its bitter fruit? What happens when political analysts forecast the victory of certain candidates on the expectation he or she will cheat, and pass that off as though it were the most natural thing in the world, part of the "dynamic" or "realpolitik" of local elections? What happens when the bishops or archbishops themselves teach the faithful that everyone cheats in elections, let's just accept the cleverest or most ruthless among them? What happens when the citizens themselves become so cynical that they figure they might as well sell their votes because those votes are not going to be counted anyway, they might as well get money for nothing?

We're only looking at the ways to stop cheating in elections, we're not looking at the will to stop cheating in the elections. As far as I know the principle still is:

No will, no way.

* * *

Tonight, the Stop the Killings bar tour stops at Newsdesk, 8 Scout Madrinan, cor. Scout Tobias. Bagong Dugo, Susan Fernandez and Gougou will be playing there. Show starts at 9:30. Be there, you'll do better than kill time.

To chug on outmoded train or zoom on bullet train

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE'S A HEALTHY DEBATE ABOUT whether the change from a presidential to a parliamentary system constitutes amendment or revision. Recently, law deans Hermogenes Decano and Daniel Farinas opined that the proposed shift via people's initiative is merely an amendment as it involves only a shift in the allocation of political power. This is basically the position articulated earlier by University of the East law dean Amado Valdez. The law deans argue that today's initiative advocates are merely pushing for the fusion of the legislative and executive powers of government under a single body, the parliament.

I might add that to Charter change advocates, this fusion is one of the most attractive features of the parliamentary system as it makes government infinitely quicker to act on reform programs and to respond to the needs of the people. Instead of the present system where the various executive departments secretaries have to submit to Congress their program for funding and needed legislation, in a parliamentary set-up, because the Cabinet ministers are MPs themselves, they know what they need and how to push it through the legislative mill. A parliamentary system is the tested government mechanism for our highly competitive global age, which explains why more governments around the world are in a parliamentary mode than presidential.

* * *

In a week or so the Supreme Court's decision on the people's initiative petition will be handed down. Those who are for Charter change hope the decision would be favorable, and that the high magistrates would give the Comelec the green light to schedule the plebiscite, so that the people can approve or disapprove the change. Few opportunities have been given to the Court in the past to make a vital difference in the lives of our people and the nation as this decision on initiative. The high magistrates now have it in their hands to alter the course of our nation's history and destiny. Do we merely chug-chug along like an antiquated political train, outstripped by all our neighbors in the region, including once war-torn Vietnam? Or do we change to a modern political bullet train that will speed us inexorably to progress and competitiveness in the global millennium?

* * *

While the debate among legal luminaries on technicalities such as amendment or revision can be enlightening, I hope our magistrates will pay more attention to the temper of the times—that we need a new system that would free us from the poison politics and the paralyzing gridlock between the two chambers of Congress, and between Congress and the Executive. Stability is the bedrock of progress, as foreign investors have always insisted and over the decades our system has bred only instability and stagnation. I hope the justices will give the Filipino people the chance to decide on their own destiny in this new millennium.

* * *

Now that the Court of Appeals has decided that only those involved in cheating in Metro Manila and Baguio should retake the nursing board exams and in only two questioned subjects, all parties involved should respect its ruling and give it due course. But the clean-up of the board of nursing has to be undertaken; in fact, from what's now coming out, the entire Professional Regulatory Commission, which supervises various boards, needs thorough cleansing and revamp. Rumors of irregularities in various boards have buzzed over the years but they were not acted upon decisively.

For instance, four nursing review centers are said to be involved in the recent leakage of local board exams. From reports, however, it seems that even the exams for foreign nurses going to the United States, which used to be held here but have since been moved to Hong Kong and other cities abroad, have their own anomalies. Some local review centers are said to also be involved in anomalies in the exams conducted by the Council of Graduates of Foreign Nursing schools (CGFNS), a private organization of American nurses that undertakes the screening of foreign nurses to be hired. The screening involves two exams for Pinoy graduates who have passed the local board exam, and seek foreign employment: the CGFNS exam and the nursing licensure in the US. For a fee ranging from P15,000 to P20,000 each, nursing graduates taking the CGFNS exams reportedly receive 48 hours earlier from local exam centers the answers to questions in those exams. Sources say the anomaly involves collusion by some CGFNS people.

Evidently the cleaning of the stables will take a long while, but it can be done by a new set of determined and honest nursing board and PRC officials.

* * *

With the theme, "Building and Leading Faith Communities on Campus," the Campus Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Archdiocese of Manila, in partnership with Claretian Communicators Inc., will host the Second National Convention of Campus Ministry from Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 19 to Oct. 21, 2006. The convention aims to form "servant leaders" who would pursue the vision of transforming schools into "faith communities" and create a network of campus ministries in several regions. Invited to attend are diocesan youth directors, faculty, educators, school directors, teachers and student leaders from all over the country. The outstanding speakers and their topics are: Joyce Krupp, "The Spirituality of a Servant Leader"; Hann Ray Erch, Ph.D., "Principles and Processes in Servant Leadership"; former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, "Servant Leadership in Philippine Society"; and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, "Servant Leadership in the Church." It will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Manila. For more details, call Msgr. Vicente D. Bauson, director of the Manila Archdiocese Campus Ministry, or the CM Secretariat at 735-3390 or 736-6589.

Vigilantes

YOUNG BLOOD

Ma. Clara Rowena D. Ebdani

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IN JUST ONE WEEK LAST SEPTEMBER, SEVERAL ROBberies took place in Cebu City. There were two on Wednesday, one in the early morning and another in the evening. I heard about the latter through a flash report in an AM station to which the taxicab I was riding was tuned in shortly after the incident happened. I was very angry to know that the victim, who was in a jeepney, was a female college student and that she had been shot dead. The student was carrying a book on accounting, and her identity was known from a piece of paper she had slipped between its pages, with her name on it and the name of the person to contact in case of an emergency. The robbers ran away with her bag and her cell phone.

"That means riding a PUJ is dangerous," the cab driver observed, speaking in Cebuano. I agreed, but at the back of my mind I was wondering how taking a taxi could be safer. As a radio commentator lamented the lack (or the absence) of police visibility in areas where robbers frequently operate, the driver said in dismay, "When an ordinary person gets shot, no human rights organization stands up for him, but when it is the robber who gets shot, there will be groups protesting the abuse of his human rights."

I knew he was referring to robbers who got executed vigilante-style. I wanted to discuss the matter some more, but I was already close to my destination, so I chose not to make any comment.

The following Friday as I was on my way to work, I heard a follow-up report on the case over the radio. The driver remarked that another robbery had taken place near a well known department store the day before. I couldn't catch the details, but I heard him mention vigilantes several times.

I asked him point-blank if taxi drivers approved of what the vigilantes were doing. He turned to look at me and smiled, in what I supposed to be a sign of affirmation.

Vigilantism in the city reached its peak in the later part of 2004 and appeared to have dropped toward the end of the following year. Most of the victims were allegedly robbers. Among the so-called "index crimes" (which includes rape, murder, homicide and physical injury), robbery seemed to have fallen most sharply during the period when the killings were most frequent.

In December 2004, the city mayor issued a statement sidestepping demands for him to do something to stop the vigilantes. He said stopping the killings was not his priority. A number of Cebuanos suspected that the mayor was condoning, if not actually encouraging, the summary executions.

Most of the cases of vigilante-style killings remain unresolved. No suspects have been identified, and no witnesses have come forward to name them.

But now that the number of vigilante killings has gone down, it appears that robbers have become bolder again. It seems that not a day passes without someone being held up by robbers somewhere in the city. On Friday, for example, two dealers were victimized by robbers. And to think that preparations for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in December are going into high gear.

It would be hard to dispute the fact that the killings have brought down the crime rate, and maybe it will continue to do so. Eliminating recidivists and habitual offenders obviously prevents them from committing more crimes. Many of the robbers who were killed were repeat offenders; robbery is punishable by imprisonment of six months to six years (depending on the gravity of the offence or the amount taken, if I remember correctly). So if we go by the figures, the number of innocent people who have been killed in the crossfire is insignificant compared to the volume of crimes prevented.

But one police inspector told me it would be wrong to assume that these vigilantes were hunting down repeat offenders. Indeed a closer look at the statistics shows that, among those killed were one-time offenders as well as those who had already served their sentences several years earlier and had turned to selling fruits and vegetables in the market to earn a living. Apparently, the chilling message being sent by whoever is behind these killing is that, anyone who commits a crime forfeits his life.

Recent Philippine history proves that vigilantes are able to get away with murder, literally. But shall we tolerate injustice if it serves the ends of justice? Shall we put a higher value on declining crime rates than the human lives being lost in the crusade against crime?

Because the government has constantly ignored calls to make law enforcement efficient and effective in protecting society and our people, a vicious cycle of lawlessness and terror has been unleashed. It is a perversity to think that in order to stop others from breaking our laws, one needs to act as if laws do not exist. When we begin thinking this way, the criminal justice system breaks down, morality is abandoned and some people play god.

Ma. Clara Rowena D. Ebdani, 23, is a workforce management coordinator at Sykes Asia Inc.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Myths and facts on breast cancer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

YOU HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE TO LEARN THE latest about breast cancer and strategies for early detection and long-term survival with the last in a series of "Keep Abreast" Cancer Awareness Seminars this Saturday, Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. at the Philippine Stock Exchange building in Ortigas. Admission is free and open to the public.

"Keep Abreast" is a project of the Philippine Foundation for Breast Cancer Care Inc. (PFBCI) and Philippine Wacoal Corp., to "provide substantial knowledge and insights about breast cancer" to the Filipino public. Experts in the field—including the best experts there are and survivors of breast cancer—will share their knowledge of and experiences with the disease in the seminar. One of them is Suzette Andrews, herself a cancer survivor who mined the experiences and knowledge gained in her struggle to found "Big C" magazine, which provides cancer survivors and their families the knowledge and skills needed to cope with the disease and make the best out of their circumstances.

Another speaker at the seminar is Dr. Cristina Santos, chair of PFBCI, who has made cancer awareness a personal and professional mission. Two other breast cancer survivors—Perla Imperial, a businesswoman and realtor, and Cecilia Espiritu, a homemaker and mother of two—will deliver testimonials on their personal experiences and how these led them to becoming breast cancer advocates through the PFBCI.

It was the cancer experience of relatives that inspired Glenda Garcia, a movie and TV personality, to join the foundation as a volunteer, helping spread breast cancer awareness as well as advocating a healthy lifestyle to improve one's chances in avoiding or overcoming the disease.

* * *

STILL as part of "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," here are some "Breast Cancer Myths and Facts" contained in hand-outs of the "Keep Abreast" campaign:

Myth: A woman has little or no risk for breast cancer if she has no family history of breast cancer. Fact: More than 75 percent of women with breast cancer have no family history of the disease. Simply being female puts all women at risk.

Myth: Estrogen causes breast cancer. Fact: Data has not shown that estrogen in birth control and hormonal replacement pills cause breast cancer. However, if breast cancer is already present, estrogen may stimulate its growth.

Myth: Breast cancer does not occur in young women. Fact: Breast cancer is more common in women over 50, but it can and does occur in women of all ages.

Myth: Women with large breasts have a greater risk of having breast cancer. Fact: Size has no relation to risk. It is, however, sometimes more difficult to examine large breasts because there is more tissue to mask a lump. (Breast implants may also make it difficult to detect a cyst or tumor in a mammogram —RJD).

Myth: An injury to the breast can cause breast cancer. Fact: Cancer is not caused by hurting or bruising the breast. However, when a cancer is already present, it is often detected when a woman touches her breast after an injury.

* * *

MYTH: Most lumps in the breast are cancer. Fact: Most breast lumps are not cancer. However, it is important to obtain a definite diagnosis instead of assuming that a lump is harmless.

Myth: A breast lump must be surgically removed to find out if its malignant. Fact: Many breast cancers can be diagnosed without a surgical procedure.

Myth: Removal of the entire breast is safer than segmental mastectomy and radiation therapy. Fact: Survival is similar for patients who have breast-conserving therapy and those who undergo total or modified radical mastectomy.

Myth: Women with a strong family history of breast cancer should not consider breast conserving therapy. Fact: A strong family history of breast cancer is not a contraindication to breast-conserving therapy. The decision about which treatment to use should take into account several factors such as stage of the breast cancer, body build and lifestyle.

Myth: Once a woman has been treated for breast cancer, she should avoid becoming pregnant. Fact: Pregnancy need not be avoided by women who are free of cancer and not undergoing treatment. Successful pregnancies have occurred even in women who have undergone abdominal surgery.

MEANWHILE, the Shangri-La Plaza recently launched The Ledge, which it calls the metropolis' "latest and hippest chill out place" on the mall's sixth floor.

Sharing space with the Shang Cineplex, The Ledge serves as a hub for an array of food and beverage outlets serving different cuisines. Among the restaurants and bars we've tried is Cyma, a Greek restaurant whose food at its Boracay outlet we had raved about earlier. The cuisine at the Shang branch did not disappoint, and we're happy to note its artichoke spread is as good as the version served in Bora.

A new discovery of ours is Sumosam, which takes a hip, modern approach to Japanese cuisine, and where, so its publicity materials say, "tofu, tempura and banana split go well with each other."

Mongkok has likewise been an old family favorite, starting with its Libis branch, and its appetizing array of dimsum is still unrivalled.

C2, which takes a modern approach to the familiar Filipino cuisine, is likewise a favorite, offering filling *merienda* fare and luscious shakes.

We look forward to trying the other outlets: Penang Hill, with its line-up of Malaysian and Singaporean entrees; Tender Bob's which specializes in steaks; Green Tomato and its Italian-inspired menu; and Cocorama, with its offerings of pancakes, waffles and other filling snacks.

There are, of course, familiar snack bars like Starbucks, Sugarhouse and Ice Monster—longtime haunts for indulging a caffeine craving and sweet longings.

Violence against children

WORLD VIEW

Louise Arbour

A VEIL OF SILENCE COVERS VIOLENCE against children, yet abuses are so pervasive that no country can ignore them, and no society can claim to be immune from them. Despite almost universal acceptance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, governments' concrete initiatives to counter such violence have been inadequate.

Turning a blind eye to this phenomenon or claiming ignorance of its incidence and implications will now be very difficult. After more than three years of work, the "World Report on Violence Against Children," a United Nations study (released last Oct. 11) provides a comprehensive account of the root causes and effects of the problem. In maintaining that such violence is never justifiable, it presents a range of measures that could prevent and curb abuses. The study also gathers existing statistics and data from a variety of sources and combines human rights, public health and child protection experiences and approaches to paint a global picture of this disturbing problem.

It documents that in 2002, 150 million girls and 73 million boys experienced forced sexual intercourse and other forms of sexual violence; between 100 and 140 million girls and women have undergone some form of female genital mutilation; of the 218 million of children who were working in 2004, 5.7 million were in forced or bonded labor in 2000—1.8 million in prostitution and pornography and 1.2 million were victims of trafficking. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the independent expert appointed by the UN secretary general to direct the study, concludes that children endure violence in silence and hopelessness because of shame and fear of retribution, and because such abuses are sometimes state-authorized and generally socially approved.

Failure to protect children starts with those who are directly responsible for their welfare and security in families, schools and the communities where they live and work. Indeed, the study notes, "the majority of violent acts experienced by children is perpetrated by people who are part of their lives." But ultimately, the chain of responsibility ends with states which, under international human rights law, have an obligation to provide an environment in which children can fully enjoy their rights without fear of abuse and retribution.

The Convention of the Rights of the Child offers the most comprehensive legal framework to address violence against children. Its provisions protect them from physical and mental abuse, injury, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation, including sexual coercion. Along with other treaties, the convention obliges governments to act forcefully to ensure that anyone who has the care of a child, even for a short period, refrains from abusive conduct.

In their national law and practice, however, many states have carved out exceptions to the convention's provisions. Some governments are reluctant to interfere in the private sphere of family life and hold to account those who perpetrate violence within the "sanctity" of the domestic perimeter.

In many states, legislation addressing violence against children concentrates on sexual or physical violence, but ignores psychological violence and neglect. Other countries lack the security indispensable to effective protection or the capacity and structures that give teeth to prevention measures and safeguard mechanisms. As a result, an untold number of children continue to suffer every day all over the world with scarce or non-existent options for recourse, while their tormentors are unscathed.

The imposition of the death penalty against minors is the most egregious example of state-enforced abuse. In some countries, less severe sentences may include flogging, stoning and amputation. Disciplinary measures that may amount to cruel, degrading and unusual treatment or punishment are legal and applied in the penal institutions of at least 77 countries. All such practices are anathema to international human rights law.

Not surprisingly, girls, children with disabilities, or from minorities and other marginalized groups remain the most exposed to violence, both as targets of abuse and victims of state negligence to provide them with the necessary protection and justice.

In many countries, growing disparities in income, globalization, migration and pandemics contribute to creating a climate of insecurity and strife which—often disproportionately—affects children's rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

Against the bleak background, the study laments a lack of knowledge and understanding of the root causes of violence against children. It points out that, even when states put in place policies to counter abuses, they often do so in ways and with means that are fragmentary and reactive rather than comprehensive and preventive. To tilt the balance toward effective protection, states should translate their commitments under international human rights law into policies and action, assess priorities, stop blaming or ignoring the victims and instead punish the perpetrators of violence and abuse.

To this effect, the UN study provides a wealth of recommendations, including on preventive measures and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that children are not left unprotected. More than 3,000 individuals contributed to this study, including children who, shedding fear and shame, came forward. They have offered thorough accounts of their predicament. We should pay heed to their words and needs. After all, it's they who know.

Louise Arbour is UN high commissioner for human rights.

THEY SAID

Monkey trick

"Unable to buy legitimacy for her illegitimate government, she is performing all sorts of legal tricks to ensure her political survival. One trick she learned from the late dictator is to monkey around with the Constitution."

—Laban ng Masa chair Dr. Francisco Nemenzo on President Macapagal-Arroyo's reported resolute push for Charter change

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The odds against Nicole in her fight for justice

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

POOR NICOLE. SHE WAS A GONER even before the trial started. Just consider the odds she was up against from the very beginning.

1. She's fighting not only against the proverbial city hall but against the lone superpower who would move heaven and earth to save an American life. (How I wish the same thing could be said of our government.)

2. In Subic alone, 3,000 cases of rape have been filed but not a single conviction has been heard of.

3. She doesn't have the logistics to hire *abogados de campanilla* who—come to think of it—seem to be readily "on the other (read: greener) side of the fence" in high-profile cases.

4. No less than the secretary of justice himself tolled the first knell of her cause when he made some statements that an ordinary man in his right senses would not say in public.

5. She's "defended" by government-appointed prosecutors who are directly under a boss who only knows which side of his bread should be buttered.

6. She didn't have a Fr. James Reuter to console and comfort her during those times when she was being raped again and again in the witness stand. (Father Reuter, what happened to you? Is it a case of blood being thicker than water?)

7. Bad timing. Her case overlapped with that of Jocelyn Bolante's request for political asylum in the United States.

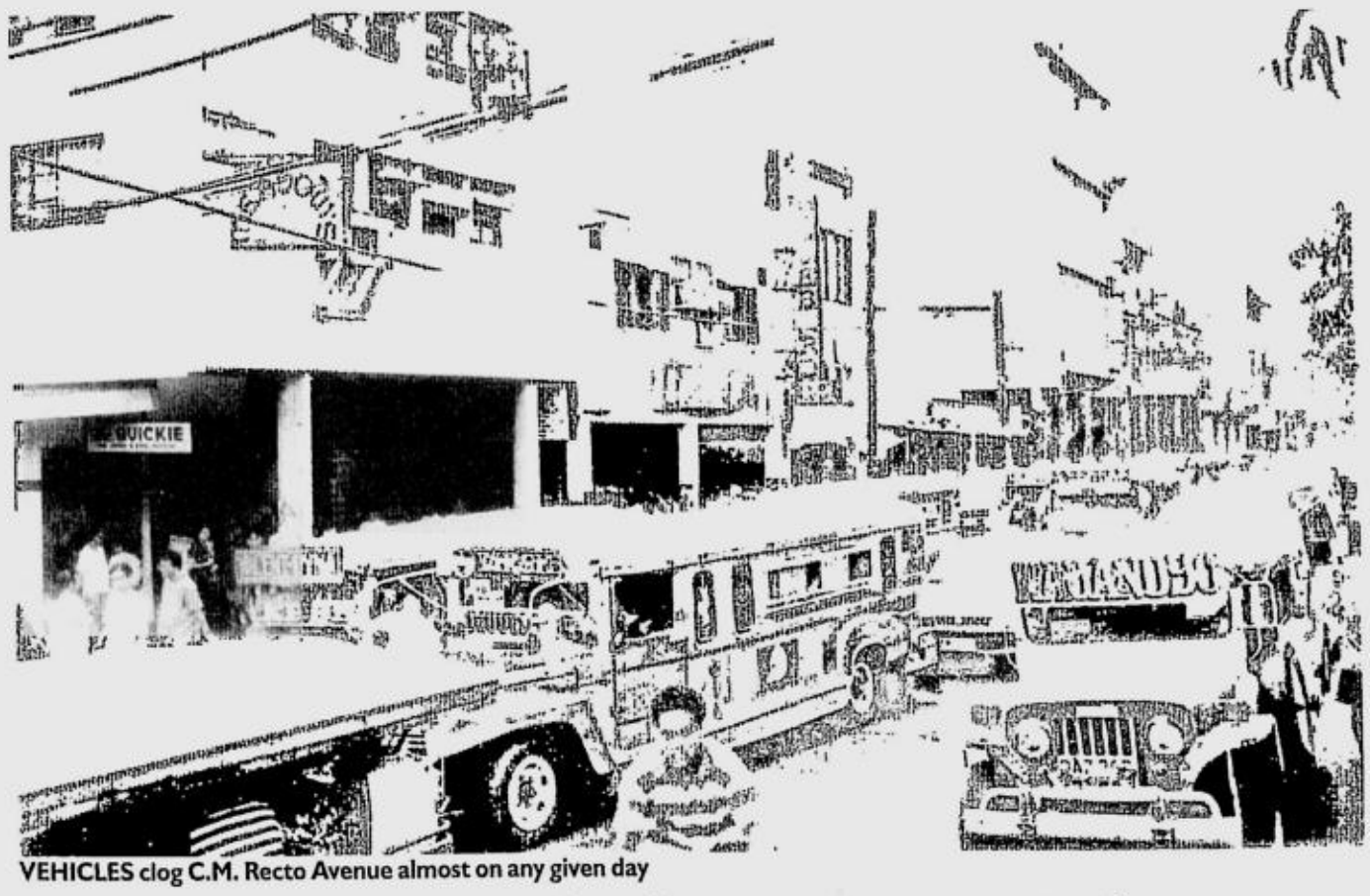
As if those odds were not enough, she and her mom have on "their side" prosecutors whom they have antagonized and who, some people now perceive, are out to prosecute her, not her alleged rapist and his cohorts.

Win or lose, Nicole would forever be haunted by what happened that fateful night and the days when she had to be raped again and again in the witness stand.

If she wins, so will countless other nameless rape victims who couldn't muster the courage to come out in the open and relive their nightmarish ordeal.

If she loses, so will everyone who believe in what is fair and square. And Nicole is fighting for justice not in a fair and square arena.

—PRESENTACION P. JACOB, 97 Main Ave., Block 16 Lot 22, Pacita 2 Phase 1, San Pedro, Laguna



VEHICLES clog C.M. Recto Avenue almost on any given day

Recto among the 'worst polluted' streets in Metro Manila

FOR A LONG, LONG TIME, PUBLIC officials and ordinary citizens alike have been aware that C.M. Recto Avenue is one of Metro Manila's "worst polluted" streets. Not only is the street littered with so much garbage, it also reeks of the stench of rotting waste, which passers-by have to painstakingly endure. Its drainage system is clogged such that on rainy days, portions of the streets easily turn into murky pools of filth. Despite the Clean Air Act, the street teems with smoke-belching passenger jeepneys.

"Recto" may not exactly be home to rich foreign tourists but it does not necessarily mean that it should be ignored. Our local officials have already come up with policies on urban sanitation. But it is also the ordinary citizen's responsibility to keep the city clean. Mayor Lito Atienza's famous call, "Buhayin ang Maynila," would only come true if everybody acted out their part in this simple undertaking.

—RAYMOND RUEDA, 18 Malaya St., La Loma, Quezon City

Greenpeace's 'polluted' interpretation

WE TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE GREENpeace's claim that we accused them of "pouring huge amounts of pesticides into a creek." (PDI, 9/6/06) That was a clear distortion of a line (in a press statement) that read: "A few weeks ago, unidentified people poured a huge amount of pesticide into a creek that is the source of clean water for the residents, and started sending out text messages that Lafayette was to blame."

So much for a "credible" organization that issues twisted press releases while condemning the clarificatory press statements of its target subjects as "PR job masquerading as a news report."

We have learned from the past to immediately tell the public of any underhanded tactics by thoughtless groups to prevent a repeat of the mercury hoax which succeeded in making people believe that the Rapu Rapu Polymetallic Project caused a non-existent event. That hoax deprived 5,000 poor fishermen from Sorsogon of their livelihood, when people stopped buying their catch.

If Greenpeace were really sincere, it would have agreed to split the water sample it got from a creek in Rapu Rapu. That was after all the scientific protocol to assure check and balance. Greenpeace refused. It became clear why. We learned that, about the same time it was taking the samples, it was already issuing a press release in Manila, saying those same samples did not meet standards.

Thus, we issued our own press release—to protect ourselves from another potential smear, or worse, another hoax, at the expense of the fisherfolk in the area.

Why Greenpeace would spend time for mischief in Rapu Rapu when Guimaras was shouting for help speaks volumes for what this organization really stands for.

Our company will shortly unveil a program, one of many, to give Rapu Rapu pupils quality education. We believe education is the great equalizer. We want to show that a sincere company can turn a poor community around. We aim to be a model of partnership and synergy.

We want the children of Rapu Rapu to grow up into responsible and productive members of society, a new breed of upright leaders who will make our country the best that it can be. We will strive to make them follow in the footsteps of our heroes who fought for a patriotic cause, not in the stealthy tiptoes of troublemakers wedded to a farce.

As we move forward, we can only hope that Greenpeace and other unyielding anti-mining groups will keep an open mind—a tall order the way things are now. But we still hope they'd do. We want them breathing down on our neck so that we will always be the best that we can be. We want to engage in the open and in a very civil manner all our detractors, under the "sunshine policy" the new management is espousing. Which should make for an ideal partnership between enlightened advocacy and responsible mining.

—BAYANI AGABIN, senior vice president, legal, Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc.

Only English for teaching?

I HOPE CONGRESS WOULD TAKE a look at Article 14 of the Constitution before making English the only medium of instruction in schools. It says Filipino is the official language and English, the secondary. It would therefore be unconstitutional to make schools use only the English language for teaching. Besides, it has been found that children who learn in their native language assimilate more information than they do when taught in a foreign language.

If the purpose is to make Filipinos become better English speakers then the Department of Education must improve the teaching of English. Also there has been development in Filipino literature in the last 30 years. It would be a shame if all the progress in that field would come to naught. And I believe we must now start to make a "national" Filipino language.

The Indonesians and Malaysians have been ahead of us with their Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Malaysia. And let's remember what Jose Rizal said about language: "*Ang hindi marunong magmahal sa sariling wika ay higit pa sa malansang isda.*"

—RICHARD YU 1218 P. Noval St., Sampaloc, Manila

Small-minded generalization on American males

THIS IS A REACTION TO RINA Jimenez-David's "Open letter to Nicole." (PDI, 9/22/06) I take offense at her accusation that all American men think that all Filipinas are prostitutes. Her accusation revealed a kind of small-mindedness on her part.

In 1974, I married a beautiful telephone operator who had two years of college. We have two great kids—one is a nurse, and the other serves in the US Navy. I never felt that all Filipinas were prostitutes. However, there were several "gold diggers" who filed false rape cases in and around Clark Air Base while I was stationed there.

I also do not think all your young kids and their parents are cheats just because a few cheated in the World Little League Baseball competition in the United States several years ago. Or that all your nursing graduates are cheaters just because some of them cheated in the last nursing board exam.

And I do not feel all Philippine government workers are cheats because of what happened in the last presidential elections. And I certainly cannot believe that all journalists are biased because one journalist appears to be so in her open letter.

—TIM AUKSHUN, tim@oceandeep.biz

RP's penchant for creating new provinces

I THINK ONE OF THE REASONS why we cannot do away with the festering problem of bureaucratic red tape in government is our penchant for creating more and more provinces despite the fact that our country is very small.

A few days ago, I gathered from a TV newscast that there is a plan to cut Cebu into three provinces. Earlier, I read in the INQUIRER that a portion of Sultan Kudarat will be converted into a new province. If all these plans materialize, the number of provinces in our country will be increased from the present 80 to 83.

Please note that during the watch of President Ferdinand Marcos, we had only 62 provinces. Which means that, since the 1986 People Power Revolution, we have been creating new provinces at the rate of about one province per year.

Our neighbor, Indonesia, an archipelago just like our country and whose land is six times larger than the Philippines, has only 27 provinces.

At the rate we are creating new provinces, there will come a time when the Presidential Seal will be filled to overflowing with stars (one star in the seal represents one province).

—PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
NIPPON EXPRESS PHILIPPINES CORP. RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Hiroki Furuya	Supervisor
NIPPON EXPRESS PHILIPPINES CORP. RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Takaya Hara	Supervisor
EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR 378 Caballero St., cor. Lumbang St. Dasmariñas Village, Makati City	Ahmed Mohamed Ali Korkor	Accountant
DELL INTERNATIONAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 27/F, RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. G. Puyat Ave., Makati City	Christopher Loh	Resolution Specialist Manager
HARTE-HANKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 4th Level Market Market Mall, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, M.M.	Ian Frederick Grist	Operations Director, Asia-Pacific
RFM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT CORPORATION Mezzanine Floor, Y.I.C. Bldg., 1007 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila	Kum Hee Baik (w/o Choi)	Operations Manager
ABSOLUTE HAPPY DREAM CORPORATION 184 Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City	Dong Jun Kim	General Manager
PIONEER LIFE, INC. Pioneer House Bldg., 108 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yoon Kwek Soong	Consultant

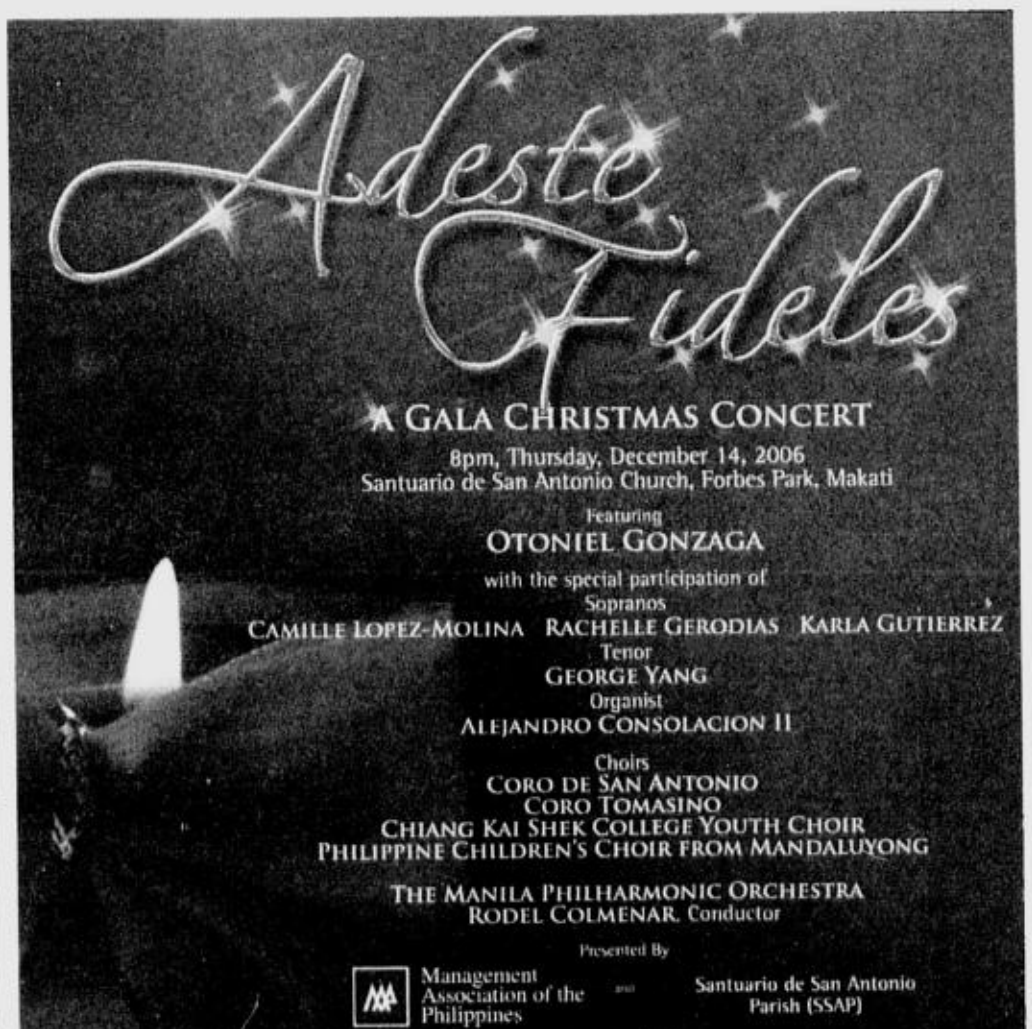
If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – October 17, 2006)

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



A civic duty

I WOULD LIKE TO REFUTE THE FALSE claims made by the UP Association of Political Science Majors (UP APSM), supposedly a "non-partisan" organization, about the egg-throwing incident involving STAND-UP and AFP chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. (PDI, 9/30/06)

The APSM claimed that the purpose of the forum that APSM sponsored was to create a "culture of peace." Just by inviting the AFP chief (who, together with other AFP officials and his commander in chief Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is accountable for the numerous unsolved political killings and human rights violations) and letting him talk about how counter-productive solving these abuses would be (this he said in the forum) contradicted the idea of a "culture of peace" and promoted instead the "culture of terror."

Besides, the way the forum was held deviated completely from APSM's slogan, "Where both ends of the political spectrum meet." For example, the moderator refused at first to entertain University Student Council's chair Paolo Alfonso who raised his hand for an opportunity to speak during the dialogue part of the program. And he was the first one to raise his hand. He was only entertained when the audience started to make comments (e.g., *Kanina pa 'yan* oh!) about the moderator's apparent bias. Alfonso is, of course, a student activist himself and very critical of the Armed Forces. The attempt to isolate Alfonso was not an indication that the organizers of the forum had in mind "a meeting of both ends of the political spectrum." The culture of peace that APSM's forum sought to establish was illusory peace—the kind of peace created not because conflicts are resolved but because conflicts are set aside.

The egg-throwing incident was a symbolic act. In these times when activists are peppered with bullets and death threats, the only way for them to fight back is to remind the "protectors" of the people that they are being watched and that they are accountable for what is happening in the country right now. Reminding our "protectors" of their job is a civic duty.

—RG TESA, member, Anakbayan-University of the Philippines, Diliman Chapter, Quezon City

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

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Jolo cops say bombing a 'blackeye'

JOLO, SULU—POLICE SAID THE BOMB ATTACK inside their headquarters here was a virtual "blackeye" on law enforcers and tagged the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah as behind it.

"There is a strong indication that it's the work of the Abu Sayyaf, although it's still being investigated," Senior Supt. Ahirum Adjirim, provincial police chief, said.

Adjirim also admitted that the attack was a "blackeye" for the police as it happened inside its own camp.

Aside from the provincial police command, Camp Asturias is also home to the Peace Keepers Inn, the Western Mindanao Command Hospital, several retired police provincial directors, the dxSM Radyo ng Bayan, the Jolo Mainland Water District, a Catholic church, a mosque and several civilian residents. It has several entry points, aside from its main gates.

"I earlier ordered the camp's guards to stay on heightened alert, but despite this, there was a lapse and a determined bomber succeeded in his evil and unIslamic activity," Adjirim said.

He identified the wounded as Lolita Bernardo, 55, her daughter Geraldine, 20, and a bystander, Hatta Jilah, 26.

He said two suspects entered the police compound using the alleys instead of the main gates.

The elder Bernardo saw the suspects place a tin can in the narrow alley between the Western Mindanao Command Hospital (formerly Camp Asturias Hospital) and the Peacekeepers Inn, Adjirim said.

The Bernardos were tending a small stall near the alley.

Last week, bombs also exploded in Central Mindanao, leaving six people killed and 30 others injured. In these attacks, mobile phones were used to set off the bombs. Mobile phones as triggering mechanisms were also seen in recovered unexploded bombs.

But in Sunday night's explosion in Jolo, an alarm clock was used as a triggering device.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Sealana, commander of the 104th Army Brigade, the suspects used an alarm clock as triggering device "because cell sites were down Sunday night."

The 104th ID's explosives and ordnance detection group said the bomb was made up of Ammonium Nitrate and TNT flakes placed in a recycled biscuit can.

"Our analysis here is that bombers were just trying to sow fear, trying to make their presence felt," Sealana said.

Sealana said the attack could also be in retaliation to the arrest of Istiada Oemar Sovie in Patikul town on Oct. 3. Istiada is the wife of Dulmatin, a Jemaah Islamiyah member believed to be behind the 2002 bombing in Bali, Indonesia that killed 202 people.

Adjirim also called on residents to help the police in intelligence gathering against the terror groups.

In Cotabato City, small entrepreneurs in the ongoing Ramadan Fair said they were experiencing a drop in sales following the bomb attacks in Central Mindanao.

Members of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kutawato Inc. (MCCIKI) said sales have been adversely affected by the Oct. 9 bomb explosions in Tacurong City and Makilala, North Cotabato.

On Oct. 10, a similar bombing offensive could have rocked Cotabato City and left many casualties if it were not for the vigilance and swift action of a saleslady who cried for help as she disposed of a left-behind backpack containing a homemade bomb.

"Since then, we noticed that people at the fair have gradually dwindled. Perhaps, afraid to mingle in crowded places amid warnings often raised by authorities to avoid frequenting large gatherings of people," said Safina Karim, who tends one of the makeshift stores set up by the business group at the Rizal Park for the duration of the fasting month of Ramadan.

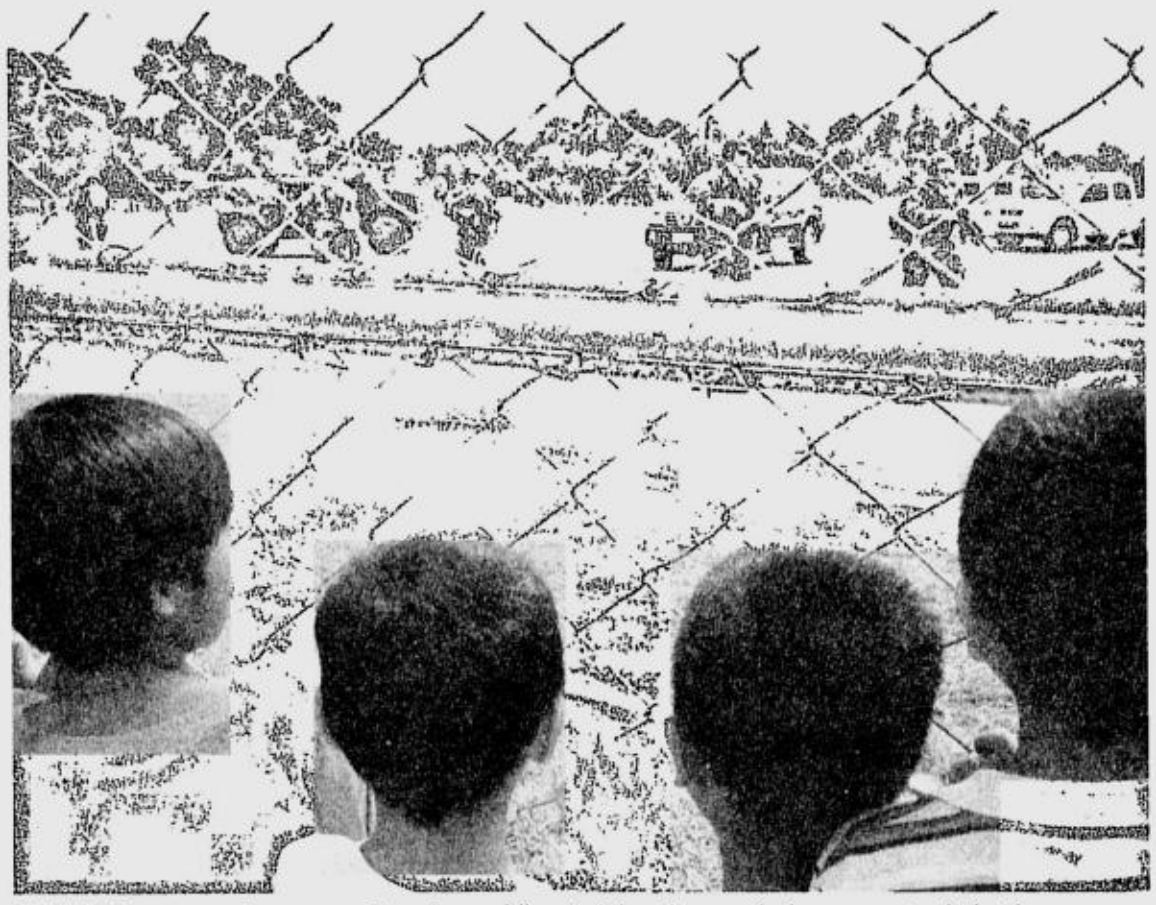
"There was about 20 percent sales reduction since the bombings started," said MCCIKI president Mike Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said police and military personnel assigned to secure the fair periphery have been augmented.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said that a peace treaty between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would help in the country's fight against terrorism.

Lussenhop called on government and rebel negotiators to continue the peace talks despite accusations that the rebel group had a hand in the bombings in Central Mindanao.

"The thing is that we still support the peace negotiations. The treaty will certainly help in the fight against terrorism," Lussenhop told the INQUIRER in a phone interview Sunday night. *Ed General, Julie S. Alipala, Charlie C. Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*



THE WAR on terror draws more American soldiers to Jolo, whose arrival was a spectacle for these children who watch from a fence at the Jolo Airport. JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

'Milenyo' benefit: Bugs' eggs swept off

GUBAT, SORSOGON—The silver lining in the cloud of destruction left by Typhoon 'Milenyo' in the Bicol region came in the form of rice black bugs that agriculture officials said floods and strong winds brought by the typhoon nearly wiped out.

Agriculture officials in this province said the flooding of ricelands brought by Milenyo had killed eggs and nymphs of the bugs, which have been attacking farms here.

Precy Moncada, municipal agriculturist, said the eggs and nymphs of the bugs had no chance of surviving the huge floods.

She, however, said the bug's population would soon multiply again as the adult ones certainly survived.

Tirso Doloiras, of the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO), said the rice black bug would forever be part of the ecosystem here, very much like the "golden kuhol."

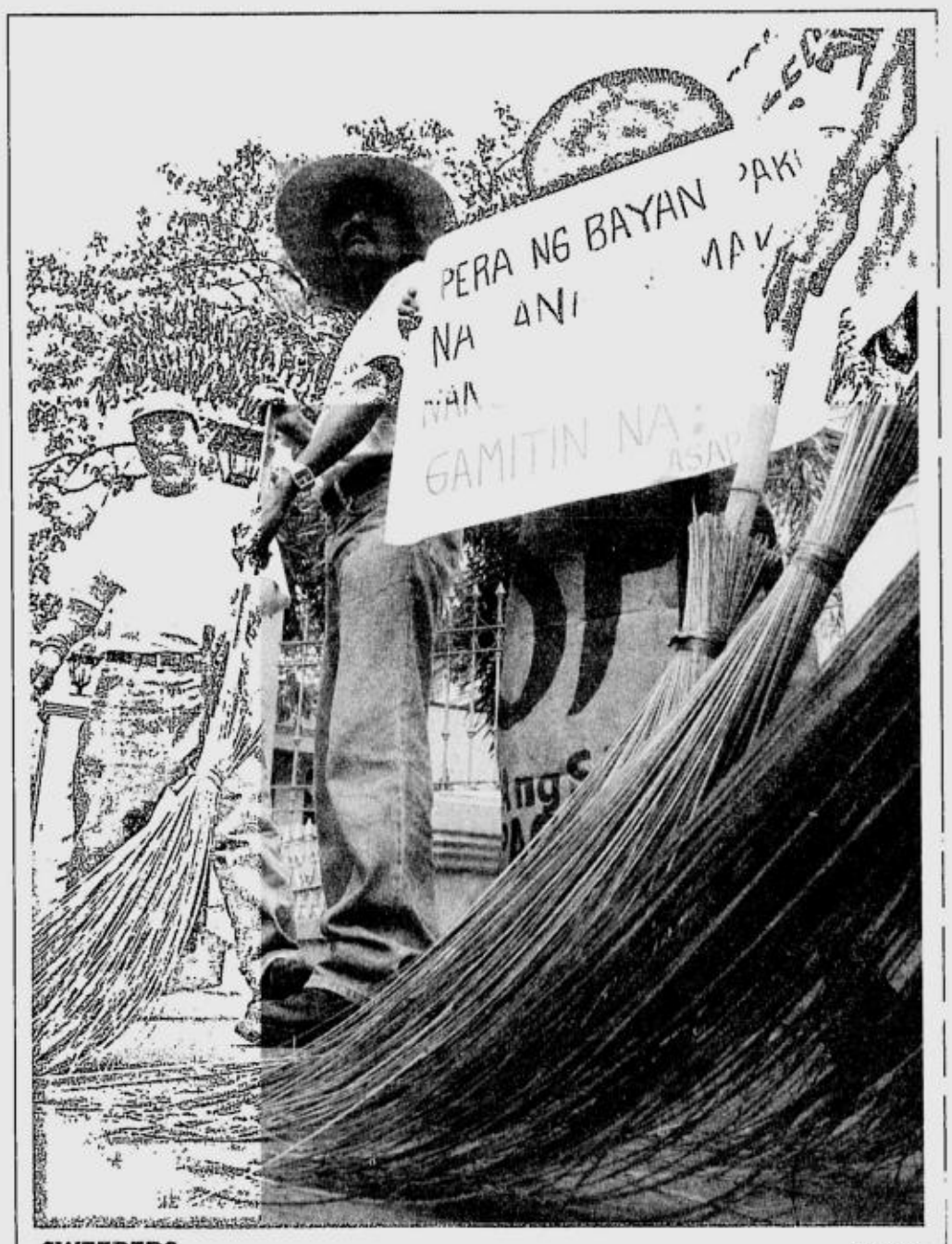
Moncada said the flooding also delayed the implementation of a new system being adopted by the agriculture office in combating the new rice pest using a certain kind of wasp.

The municipal agriculturist said they were culturing a wasp called *telenomous triptus* which preys on the eggs of the bug.

The wasps would be released to the areas being attacked by the black bug.

The new system was introduced here by the Philippine Rice Research Institute and promises to be effective, Moncada said.

Earlier, the PAO adopted the use of *metarhizium*, a biologically-friendly fungus that attacks and kills the bugs. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



SWEEPERS RYAN LIM

Members of the Assalam, a party-list group based in Marawi City, display native brooms to dramatize their protest against the continued refusal of the government to automate the country's elections and appeal for the use of computers, that are now gathering dust in a Comelec warehouse, for next year's elections.

Former NPA rebels join barangay defense system in Nueva Ecija

SAN JOSE CITY—THEY RAISED THEIR clenched fists but unlike in the past when they lambasted the government, they now praised democracy and condemned communism.

These former rebels and sympathizers of the New People's Army, totaling 568, surrendered recently to the military. They joined more than 4,000 members of the barangay defense system here on Sunday for an anti-insurgency rally.

Former NPA members "Ka Maylin," "Ka Joy," and "Ka Sandy" told of their difficulties while they were with the communist movement. Ka Sandy said she and her companions were led to believe that the soldiers were "berdugo" (butchers).

"*Di naman pala berdugo ang mga sundalo. Katulong pa nga natin sila ngayon sa kilusang pangkaunlaran dito* (The soldiers are not butchers. They are now our partners for the movement for progress here)," she said.

Ben Reyes, a medical doctor and former Bayan Muna member, also urged villagers here to condemn the communists, who, he said, "only brought chaos."

They capped the rally with the burning of the effigies of Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, NPA sppkesperson.

Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said the campaign against the CPP-NPA is "not only a fight of the soldiers, the police and the duly constituted authorities."

"It is a fight which is as much as yours," he said. "No amount of throwing in more sophisticated weapons can totally eradicate dissidence and lawlessness here if you do not have the will to see it done."

Of the 38 villages here, only Barangay Floresta remained to be cleared of insurgents, Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, commander of the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion, said, adding that the military campaign has now become a movement for economic gains of the villagers.

"Residents of villages here who are now members of the barangay defense system will be forming cooperatives soon," he said. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Yet another case filed vs military

LUCENA CITY—MILITANT HUMAN RIGHTS watchdog Karapatan filed criminal charges against the military unit assigned in Quezon province at the office of the Ombudsman and a Quezon City court for alleged illegal detention, robbery and violation of the rights of an arrested person.

Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, said her group wants to prove to the police and the military that they will not be cowed in defending victims of human rights violations.

The case stemmed from an incident last Aug. 22 when the Karapatan's "quick reaction team" was helping the family of a slain New People's Army guerrilla to retrieve her body.

Cuario said at least eight human rights volunteers "were illegally arrested and detained, and physically and mentally tortured" by soldiers from the Army's 74th Infantry Battalion based in Catanauan.

She said the military deliberately prevented their team from entering the war-torn villages to document alleged harassment and human rights violations of government forces.

The activists claimed that the soldiers also stole some of their personal belongings like mobile phones.

The military filed cases of rebellion and violation of PD 1829 or obstruction of justice against the eight but the Quezon prosecutor's office dropped the rebellion case.

Lt. Col. Amado Bustillos, chief of the Army's 74th IB, belittled the charges filed by the activists.

"All those charges are baseless. They were concocted stories just to get back at the military," he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Roxas City workers warn of water agency collapse

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—MAJORITY OF THE Metro Roxas Water District (MRWD) employees have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to save the water agency from collapse due to mismanagement by its present board.

In a three-page petition signed by about 75 percent of the over 200 MRWD employees, they also asked Arroyo to take action against those responsible for the agency's questionable transactions.

In May last year, Sen. Mar Roxas II formed a fact-finding committee to investigate a project implemented by its officers.

Roxas also asked MRWD general manager Medardo Pestaño and the MRWD board of directors to refrain from fulfilling their duties until the fact-finding committee, headed by lawyer Nicasio Conti of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, completes its investigation.

In the meantime, the Local Water Utility Administration (LWUA) took over the MRWD management.

A few months later, the fact-finding committee came up with a 32-page report citing the need for further investigation of several transactions approved by the MRWD board of directors.

These transactions include the following:

- Entering into a loan contract involving P710 million, which was to be paid by increasing MRWD's revenues by 163 percent, to finance a water treatment plant;
- Undertaking the proposed water treatment project found to be financially disadvantageous to MRWD; and,
- Approval of semi-automated water treatment plant although it has higher operation and maintenance costs than the conventional plant.

The fact-finding committee also urged the interim MRWD board of directors to submit these findings to the Office of the Ombudsman for the latter to determine whether there was basis for the filing of charges against the agency's officials.

The employees, in their petition to the President, also noted that the fact-finding recommendations are similar to an audit memorandum dated Sept. 17, 2005 issued by the Commission on Audit.

The COA had noted that the acquisition of a P2.1 million lot in Barangay Dinginan, Roxas City, which was registered under MRWD and co-owned by the six MRWD board chair Carmen Andrade and members Gervacio Diaz, Bienvenido Yap, Rogelio Solito, Vicente Chu and Rei Bernardo, violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials.

Based on the COA report, the MRWD board also deposited the amount of P5 million with the Homeowners Loan and Savings Bank, a private bank, and granted per diem to Bernardo, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) representative, without any required documents. Both actions violate some provisions of the General Appropriations Act.

The MRWD board also failed to conduct the required public bidding for the renovation project of the water district's building.

Although there were two definite findings of culpability of the MRWD board, the employees noted that the interim board failed to act on it.

"Obviously, these people are covering for each other and (the) said unholy alliance is detrimental to MRWD," they pointed out.

The employees also asked that Pestaño be reinstated as general manager to replace interim general manager Pablo Bercilla of LWUA.

"We could not understand why the management of MRWD be given to someone who is a resident of faraway Manila when the same could be equally, if not competently, handled by a Capiceño, our very own legitimate general manager Medardo Pestaño, who is presently on a set aside status," they added.

TALKING POINTS

TEXTBOOK BIDDING, ABOVE BOARD

Vibal says: "We Won FAIR and SQUARE!"

- The textbook procurement project was funded by the World Bank / Asian Development Bank loan agreement. An international competitive bidding process was adopted in accordance with the loan agreement and our R.A.9184.

- The World Bank monitored the project and was involved every step of the way. Every decision by the IABAC was subject to World Bank review and approval. Its conformity in every aspect of the bidding process had to be secured—as part of the loan agreement.

- There were eleven (11) bidders which included both foreign and local companies. The Bid documents allowed "consortiums" or "joint ventures" to bid.

- All bidders, including the Vibal consortium, were subjected to a strict four-level content evaluation wherein failure in a single level, meant disqualification on all other levels. Only three out of 11 bidders passed the technical and content evaluation process conducted by the DepEd. The Vibal consortium was among the three qualifying bidders.

- The project involved three Lots—1)books for Grades 1-3 Sibika, 2)books for Grades 4-6 Hekasi, and 3)books for High School Year I-IV Araling Panlipunan. There were no winning bids for Lot 3/High School books

- There was never any conflict of interest. Vibal Publishing House, Inc. (VPHI) and its affiliates were never in direct competition with one another. They never submitted competing bids.

- The Vibal Consortium composed of Vibal Publishing House and its affiliates JTW and LG&M, and LAMCO, a local paper supplier, submitted a bid for GRADE SCHOOL textbooks only.

- SD Publications, another VPHI affiliate, was part of a separate and different consortium referred to as the Lexmedia consortium which submitted a different bid for HIGH SCHOOL textbooks only. Lexmedia consortium eventually failed the content evaluation.

- Watana Phanit Publishing, Inc. is an independent foreign bidder. It merely obtained a copyright authorization of a book series from LG&M Corp. There is no partnership or agency relationship between Watana Phanit and LG&M or any member of the Vibal Group, at any given time.

- The Vibal Group, just like all the other bidders, was subjected to the same rigorous scrutiny and multi-level content evaluation to ascertain its compliance with standards set.

- The books are priced at an average of P43.00 each inclusive of printing and delivery which is often carried out under extremely difficult circumstances (see photos).

VIBAL Publishing House, Inc. (VPHI) categorically denies allegations of any irregularities surrounding its participation in the World Bank/Asian Development Bank-funded textbook procurement program of the Department of Education (DepEd).

VPHI maintains that it won in the biddings "fair and square" having met all the stringent standards and requirements in terms of general experience, production capacity, financial requirements, track record, as well as technical and content development capabilities as set by both the DepEd and the international funding agencies.

It further states that the procurement/ bidding process in question is in accordance with Republic Act 9184 or the Government Procurement Act which allows procurements funded by international funding institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to follow the procedures specified under the loan agreement.

VPHI explains that because of the bidding criteria and requirements adopted by the WB/ADB, it was difficult for any single local publisher or company to qualify. For this reason, VPHI said it entered into a consortium with LAMCO, a paper supplier; and its affiliates, JTW Corporation and LG&M Corporation. This consortium, which submitted a bid to supply and deliver Grade School textbooks (Sibika-Grades 1-3 and HEKASI Grades 4-6), won only for Grades 1, 3, & 5.

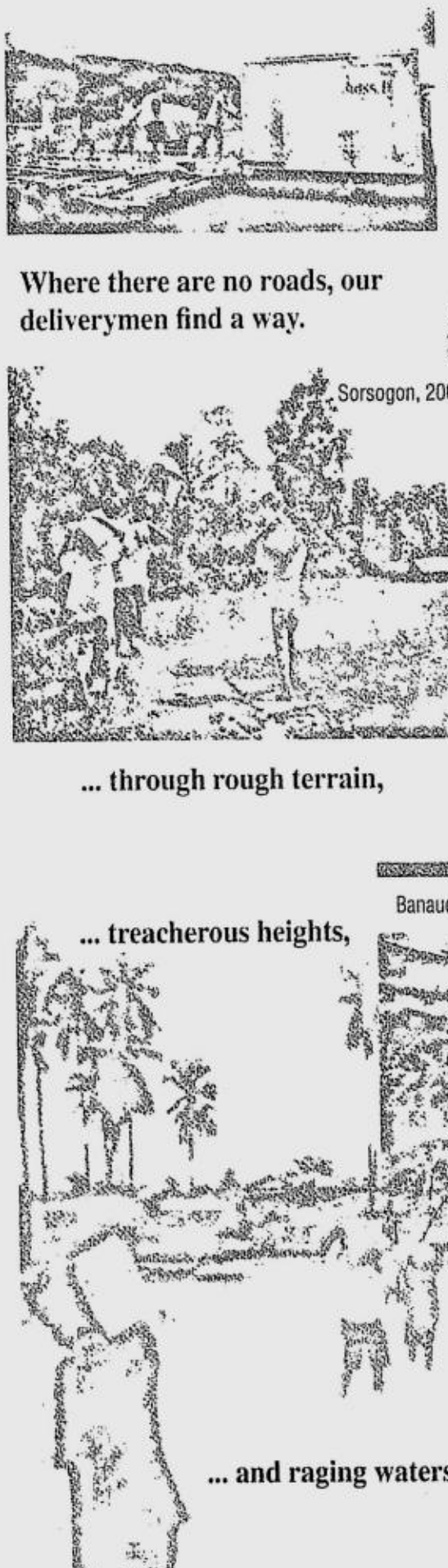
VPHI maintains that it never participated in a bidding against its affiliate companies including SD Publications, which submitted a bid for high school textbooks only, under the separate Lexmedia consortium. The high school textbooks fall under a different lot from the grade school textbooks for which the Vibal consortium submitted a bid.

It also clarifies that Watana Phanit Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd. of Thailand, an independent foreign bidder, obtained a copyright authorization for another book series from LG&M Corp. but that, other than this, VPHI or any of its affiliates have no other existing partnership with the Thai firm or any of the other foreign bidders including ALKEM.

VPHI says that, throughout its 53-year history as one of the country's top educational publishers, its integrity and track record both as a business enterprise as well as a partner of government in many of its projects, have been unassailable and beyond question.

...But with Winning Comes Great Responsibility

Vibal accepts the challenge of participating in the noble national effort of improving the quality of education in service to the youth at the lowest possible cost.



Sorsogon, 2003

Where there are no roads, our deliverymen find a way.

... through rough terrain,

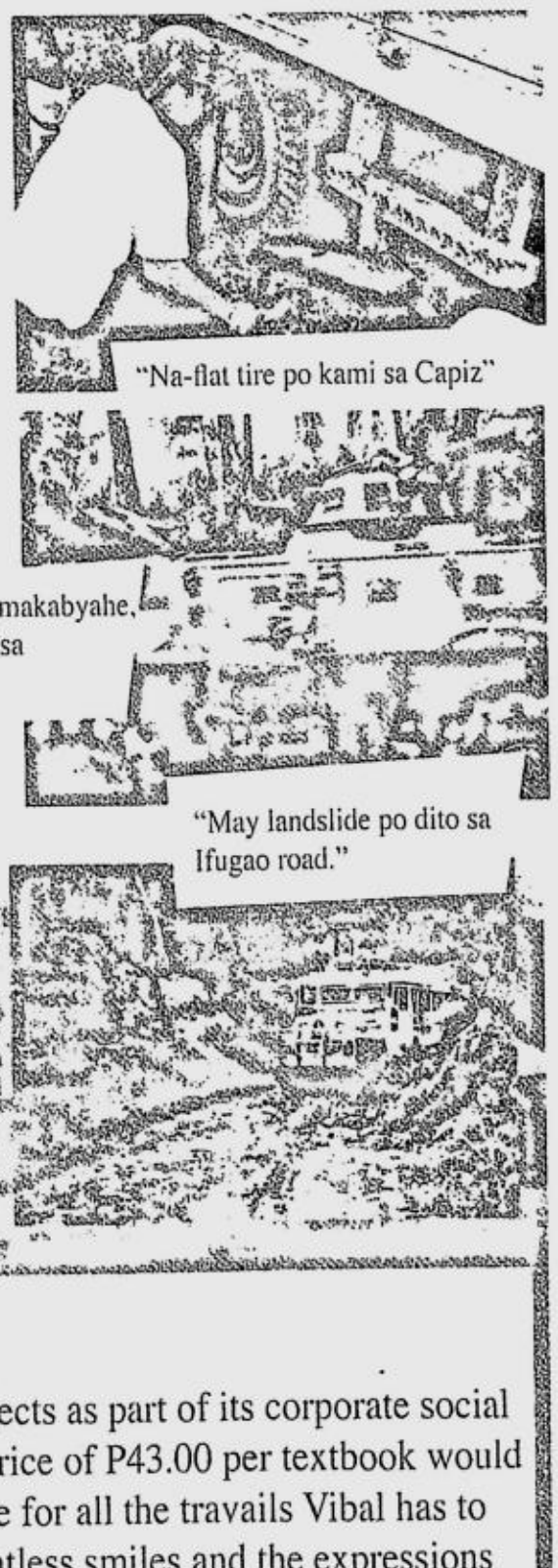
Banaue Rice Terraces

... treacherous heights,

... and raging waters.

Tawi-tawi, 2004

Being awarded a textbook contract is not a bed of roses. A textbook contractor's responsibilities are a tough act altogether. After hurdling the stringent qualification checks and a series of strict evaluation and tedious revisions, the contractor has yet to face another set of equally, if not more difficult, challenges as the pictures here show.



"Na-flat tire po kami sa Capiz"

"Hindi po kami makabyahe, may labanan pa sa Maguindanao"

"May landslide po dito sa Ifugao road."

So Why Do We Do It?

Vibal has adopted these projects as part of its corporate social responsibility initiatives. The price of P43.00 per textbook would seem insufficient to compensate for all the travails Vibal has to go through. If only for the countless smiles and the expressions of appreciation by the locals and casuals who were given temporary jobs as well as the teachers and the students who benefit from our books, the sacrifices are all worthwhile.

Bishop, execs slam use of North Quezon to ship logs

LUCENA CITY—A CATHOLIC bishop and provincial officials supported the opposition of the local government unit of Real and the Metro Reina (Real, Infanta, General Nakar) Multi Stakeholders Forest Management Council (MRMSFMC) to the proposal of a big-time logger from Aurora to turn northern Quezon into its transshipment point in the distribution of lumber.

Prelature of Infanta Bishop Rolando Tirona, in a letter to Real Mayor Arsenio Ramallosa, expressed support to the municipal officials in stopping San Roque Sawmill Corp. (SRSC) from using the coastal town as an exit route for timber and lumber through the Pacific Ocean.

Provincial Board Member Isaias Ubana II criticized the plan during a hearing called by the committee on environment on Monday.

"It will only open (the town) to more environmental problems in the area," Ubana said.

He said Quezon province and Real town could both legally refuse the request for passage under the Local Government Code.

'Technical smuggling'

Real, if used as a transport channel, might also become a passageway for "technical smuggling" of timber resources from the Sierra Madre, Ubana said.

Board Member Eladio Pasamba expressed surprise at why SRSC was so insistent in its plan.

"There is a hidden agenda behind the plan. For so many decades, those Aurora loggers have been using land routes to transport their products. Why the sudden shift in the mode of transport, which would be too costly for the business?" he asked.

Those who attended the committee hearing were surprised when Catholic priest Pete Montallana, chair of Task Force Sierra Madre-Infanta and member of the MRMSFMC, revealed that Environment Regional Director Antonio Principe had already approved the request of SRSC to use Real as an exit point for its forest products.

Montallana said Principe's action was contained in his memorandum to the DENR office in Real town dated Sept. 6.

This was confirmed by forester Joseph Posanso, a representative of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Real.

Objections

"So what's the use of all these consultations? It seems that we're all just being taken for a ride," Montallana said.

However, Cenro chief Antonio Diwa clarified in a phone interview that Principe's memorandum was followed by another letter, dated Sept. 22, instructing his office to hold the Sept. 6 document in abeyance.

The head of DENR-Quezon office also objected to the plan.

"When I met the representative of San Roque Sawmill last month, I advised him that it would be better for the company to find alternative routes. That's not the only route that it can use," Felipe Ortiz, DENR provincial chief, said during the committee hearing.

Sierra Madre has been declared a protected area under Proclamation No. 1636.

Harvesting of trees and other forest products is highly restricted there and requires special permits from the DENR. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

LOCAL VS HYBRID SEEDS

Farmers start campaign vs importation

BAGUIO CITY—A FARMERS' group said farming villages in the Cordillera are intensifying a seed campaign where farmers trade indigenous rice seeds among villages for them to plant and develop.

The campaign is one of the steps to fight rice importation, which, Andres Wailan, vice chair of the farmers' group Apit-Tako, said, is killing the farmers.

The campaign was announced on Monday during the celebration of World Foodless Day, a mock celebration of World Food Day.

Wailan said costly farming inputs such as pesticides and the continuous practice of planting imported hybrid seeds have been killing the indigenous varieties in farming villages.

Hybrid seeds were called "suicide seeds" by local farmers because they displaced the indigenous rice varieties.

Farmers started the exchange of traditional varieties in 2003 when they noticed the deterioration of their farmlands due to the use of chemicals and incursion of hybrid varieties.

The seed campaign also promotes the elimination of chemicals and the use of organic farming practices.

"In the campaign, inter-tribal relations are being encouraged to strengthen the use of traditional varieties such as *unoy, wag-wag, uyac* and *balatinaw*," Wailan said.

Mila Lingbawan, acting secretary general of Innabuyog-Gabriela, said Barangay Suyo in Sagada, Mt. Province, has been selected as pilot project of the seed campaign.

Farmers from other villages in Mt. Province are exchanging seeds with other farmers in Kalinga and Ifugao, she said.

Vernie Yocogan-Diano, acting chairperson of Innabuyog Gabriela, said they hoped that the government would support this new practice among the farmers to help local farming flourish again.

"The government must allot more money to this effort to advance the welfare of the farmers. Agriculture in the country is so profit-oriented and the government forgets that in the community level there are so many mouths to feed," she said.

She said agricultural programs in the country are packaged to advance the Green Revolution where genetically engineered crops, high-value crops and genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) have been developed and promoted by the national government with support from foreign governments, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and agro-chemical transnational companies.

Cordillera has enough rice to feed the region's population but the continuous importation of rice varieties from the United States, Europe and Japan have displaced local farmers, Wailan said.

"Rice imports have reached even Kalinga, which is Cordillera's rice granary," he said.

According to the National Food Authority, the share of Cordillera from rice imports for 2005 was 402,000 cavans, of which 200,000 cavans had already been distributed. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

A FISHERMAN in Nueva Valencia town repairs his net as Petron suspends the cash-for-work program that gave residents of the town alternative jobs as cleaners of the mess that its oil spill left. Petron declared the area safe and clean. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

3,600 tons of oil debris shipped out

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE VOLUME OF oil debris shipped from Guimaras to a cement factory in Misamis Oriental already reached over 3,600 metric tons.

The debris brought to Holcim Philippines Inc., a cement manufacturer, will be used as an alternative fuel and raw material for producing the construction material.

Barges Ras, Martam and light cargo tanker (LCT) Harmony Dianne left Guimaras, carrying a total of 2,050 MT, on Oct. 13 and 14.

The vessels will arrive at the Holcim plant in Lugait, Misamis Oriental in two to three days, depending on weather conditions, according to Petron Corp., which owns the bunker fuel that spilled into Guimaras waters.

Last month, Carmen and Millenium Uno delivered over 1,500 MT of oil debris to Holcim's plant.

The shipment came on the heels of complaints from Guimarasnons that it was taking Petron a long time to remove the debris from oil-smeared areas.

"The sludge could affect our water sources and the immediate surroundings. Since day one of this disaster, we have urged the government and all those involved to ship out the collected sludge. Definitely, we will not allow them to bury their trash here," Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga told reporters here.

Nueva Valencia is one of three hardest-hit towns after Petron-chartered MT Solar I, carrying 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel oil, sank in the Panay Gulf in southern Guimaras on Aug. 11 amid rough seas and bad weather.

Holcim buys the oil debris from Guimaras at P8 per kg, according to Petron.

The Environment Management Bureau allowed Holcim to transport 6,000 MT of debris.

ROUNDUP

Free paralegal advice

DARAGA, Albay—A national organization offering free paralegal advice to farmers, fisherfolk and other poor sectors will conduct outreach activities on Oct. 24-30 in Naga City and Quezon province. Volunteer law students will be participating in Saligan's program, which is being organized by members who also belong to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. The students will include 15 from the Bicol College, Aquinas University of Legazpi, and University of Nueva Caceres.

Inquirer Southern Luzon

Body of Canadian found

CABANATUAN CITY—The body found along a mountain highway in Carranglan town in May was that of a Canadian who had been missing for five months, police said. Chief Insp. Cresencio de Asis, head of the provincial police crime laboratory, said John Elwin was identified through dental records provided by the Canadian Embassy. His remains were exhumed on Oct. 9 in a cemetery in Carranglan. De Asis said the body was found in Barangay Capintalan in Carranglan on May 15 and buried by the local parlor when no one claimed his body after 90 days. De Asis said Elwin died from bullet wounds but could not provide other details.

Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon

Compromise tax settlements

BACOLOD CITY—Delinquent real property taxes in Negros Occidental reached over P2.38 billion last year, prompting Gov. Joseph Marañon to ask the provincial board to pass an ordinance allowing owners to enter into compromise agreements to settle their debts. The agreements will allow easy payment on interests and penalties, he said. The proposal, now being deliberated on by the board, also calls for a one-year moratorium in interests and penalties, Marañon said. Total delinquent real property taxes for those not covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law reached P755.283 million. Including interest of over P616.261 million, total collectibles could reach over P1.371 billion. Taxes for CARP properties amounted to P586.654 million and could reach P1.009 billion if interest of P422.391 billion was included. "If we collect the delinquent taxes, one half of it will go to the local government and the other half will go to special funds that go to schools," Marañon said.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Bag yields headless body

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, Bulacan—The headless, decomposing body of a girl was found in a traveling bag on a vacant lot in Barangay Proper here on Friday. Police said residents already noticed the bag on Tuesday but decided to open it three days later when many complained about the stench. Investigators said the girl could be 13-15 years old and could have been killed a week earlier.

Lora Queñano, Inquirer Central Luzon

Bad food downs 85 students

BALANGA CITY—Eighty-five students of the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) in the coastal village of Alas-asin in Mariveles town were hospitalized after eating luncheon meat, pork and beans, and *tokwa't baboy* for breakfast on Sunday. The students complained of loose bowel movement, vomiting and abdominal pain. Dr. Renato Camacho of the St. Joseph Hospital said 18 students were admitted for dehydration due to food poisoning. The rest were taken to other hospitals in the city and neighboring towns.

Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon

Writers' workshop

THE ARTS Research and Training Institute in Southern Tagalog Inc. will hold the Ikatlong Pangatnig Writers' Workshop and Literature Teachers Conference on Nov. 2-5 Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba. The conference, which will be held in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Letran-Calamba's Department of Arts and Culture, gathers local writers and literature teachers from Laguna, Batangas and Quezon. Resource persons include Bienvenido Lumbera, national artist for literature; Lilia Quindoza-Santiago; and Reuel Molina-Aguila. Deadline for application is Oct. 27. For details, call 049-536-6680 or 0926-562-0145.

Battle of Suluan

THE provincial gOVERNMENT of Eastern Samar is commemorating today the Battle of Suluan, an event that Gov. Ben Evardone, said was unfairly labeled in history books as the Suluan Raid. Evardone, in a press statement, said the battle paved the way for the Leyte Gulf landings of the allied forces under Gen. Douglas MacArthur during World War II. "Worse, there is scant, if any, reference to . . . this crucial event," said Evardone in his statement. "There is no need to reinvent the Battle of Suluan. All that we need to do is accord it due recognition . . ." he said.

Lead found in blood of Baguio jeep drivers

By Delmar Carino
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—BLOOD SAMPLES taken from 43 jeepney drivers here were found positive for lead, but a study said the contamination levels were far from alarming.

Drivers, jeepney operators and the Environmental Management Bureau officials took the results seriously and asked for a more comprehensive study in view of the findings' impact on the city's pollution level.

The study was conducted last year by a team led by Dr. Benilda Narcelles of the University of Baguio's Department of Medical Technology.

The findings were presented to the EMB and members and officials of transport groups in August during the university's in-house research exchange.

According to the study, 17 of the 43 drivers had moderate lead levels, 13 had low levels, and three had very high levels of lead content.

The presence of lead was most noted among drivers who had complained of kidney problems, rheumatism, back pain and dizziness.

The study, though, deemed such results as still nontoxic compared to World Health Organization standards.

While the findings showed moderate levels of lead content, "they still pose serious implications because lead is lead and it is still poison to human beings," Narcelles said.

"There is still danger because lead is cumulative," she said.

Lead is a dense, bluish gray metallic element that can cause high blood pressure, nerve disorder, cataract, digestive problem, muscle pain and damage to sperm-producing organs in men.

The nature of the driver's job, which is exposure to environmental hazards, was identified as the possible source of the lead found in the blood samples.

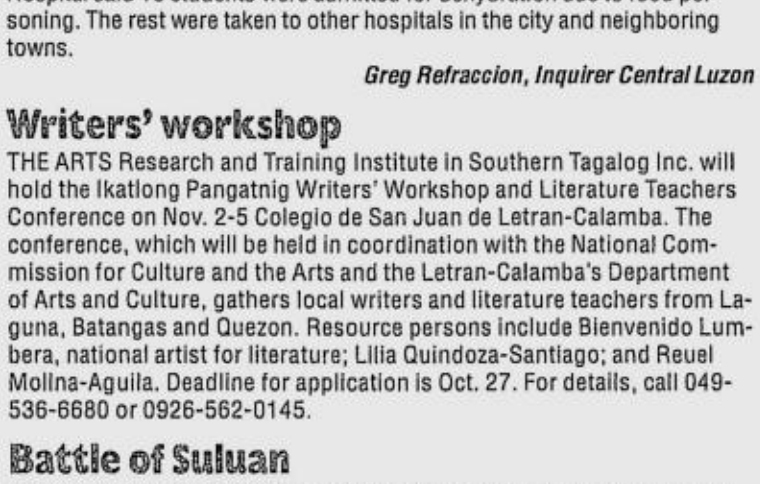
"The drivers are usually exposed to gasoline, fuel and other automotive substances which make them highly susceptible to lead contamination," Narcelles said.

Perfecto Itliong Jr., president of the federation of jeepney operators and drivers' associations in Baguio, Benguet and La Union, said operators and drivers were concerned about the findings.

But he said the study should be expanded to cover more drivers. The city alone has 40 jeepney associations with 2,500 members, he said.

"But we are considering the results of the study seriously," he said, admitting that the use of leaded gasoline could explain the presence of lead in the drivers' blood samples.

"That's why we have been encouraging our drivers to use alternative fuel," he said.



KEY TO BACOLOD CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mayor Evelio Leonardia (right, in striped shirts) hands a symbolic key to Bacolod City to former Rep. Mark Jimenez (left) during Jimenez's visit to Bacolod recently. Jimenez held a dialogue with Negros Occidental officials recently.

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REUNION. President Arroyo embraces Msgr. Basilio Rosales, 96, whom she said she knew since her childhood. The brief meeting took place yesterday morning at the Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology in Calbayog City. Monsignor Rosales is the younger brother of the late Julio Cardinal Rosales and the late Sen. Decoroso Rosales. ROLANDO MAILO/CONTRIBUTOR

GMA OKs P2.8-B road repair, other super region projects

By Vicente S. Labro and Joey A. Gabriela
Inquirer Visayas

CALBAYOG CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday gave the go-signal for the rehabilitation of the Calbiga to Calbayog Road in Western Samar at a cost of P2.8-billion.

Ms Arroyo said the government would issue today the notice to proceed with the repairs to the contractors, China Road and Bridge Corp. and E. C. de Luna Construction.

Built some 30 years ago, the road section is dilapidated and commuters have been complaining about its condition.

China Road will repair the 52.7-km Calbayog-Gatanguit Road, while E.C. de Luna will rehabilitate the 59.4-km Gatanguit-Calbiga Road.

The President also announced several other projects, like the extension of Calbayog Port and the city airport's runway, the construction of a roll on-roll off port in Barangay Manguinoo in Calbayog, and the establishment of a travelers' rest area.

The projects are part of the plan to include Calbayog in the country's super regions, she said.

She said the ro-ro project will connect Calbayog to Biliran and Masbate, while the Calbiga-Calbayog-Allen section of the Maharlika Highway will link the city to Luzon and Mindanao.

The President's visit yesterday coincided with the 58th Charter Day celebration of Calbayog City.

In her speech at the Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology gym, the President also said the fight against the communist insurgency would continue.

She said she had handpicked the generals who would take charge of the anti-insurgency campaign in the Visayas—Brig. Gen. Cardoso Luna of the Visayas Command and Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, commanding general of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar.

She said there would be no progress in Samar if there was no peace on the island, and urged the people to support the military.

The President underscored the need for funds to bring the government's projects to fruition.

In her speech, she urged the Senate "to speed up the deliberations on the budget," saying "the budget is a matter of national interest that can no longer be delayed."

Earlier, the President unveiled the markers for several projects being undertaken in Calbayog, among them, the Sakay Na project, the Calbiga-Calbayog Road Network, the Calbayog-Catarman Road, Botika ng Bayan and Cagbayang Bridge.

She also distributed secure tenure certificates to about 20 squatters in the city.

Noli urges maximum use of gov't lots

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday asked the National Housing Authority to make full use of its prime lots as well as other idle properties to enable the government to address the housing backlog and earn more revenue.

"We have to seriously pursue the optimum utilization of NHA's prime assets to be able to generate revenues for the [agency]," De Castro, who is chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said during the 31st anniversary celebration of the NHA.

De Castro noted several violations in the NHA properties in the Northeast Triangle area of Quezon City.

These included the establishment of a mall without the permission of the NHA; the proliferation of businesses at the Lung Center of the Philippines; the encroachment of the Children's Hospital on the property outside its boundaries, and the continued use by the Armed Forces of the Philippines of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center golf course.

"We have not benefited much from these properties despite the fact that we need money for our projects and for the benefit of our employees. If we perform well, we will also be rewarded. So let's strive harder and make the development of our prime properties a priority," De Castro said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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MANOTOC

'Borgy, not Imelda, for mayor'

Manila close to her son's heart, says Imee Marcos

By Philip C. Tubeza

GUESS WHO ELSE IS RUNNING for mayor of Manila?

Commercial model Martin Marcos Manotoc, more popularly known as "Borgy," is considering joining next year's mayoral elections, his mother claimed yesterday.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said her mother, former First Lady Imelda Marcos—who was reportedly planning to run for mayor of the Philippine capital—has decided to give way to her 23-year-old grandson. Instead, Imelda would act as Manotoc's campaign manager, the congresswoman added.

Imee said the former first lady was able to convince Borgy to consider running for "an elective post since he has lots to offer to the people of Manila, particularly the youth." She added that Borgy also traces his roots to Tondo, considered as one of the capital's depressed areas.

"Borgy comes from Tondo. His dad (sportsman Tommy Manotoc) hails from Gagalangin, Tondo, Borgy's grandparents are from Tondo. His lineage and roots are all native residents of Manila," Imee said.

According to the lawmaker, her son could easily win Manila's primary voting block "which are mostly composed of young voters, plus the fact that the former first lady, being a former governor of Metro Manila, still has a strong influence and charisma among the people in depressed areas in Manila. With Borgy, it's like having Imelda Marcos run as mayor of Manila," Imee said.

"With my mom as Borgy's campaign manager, he will definitely get a solid vote in Manila, particularly in Sampaloc, Pandacan, Tondo, Quiapo, Binondo, Sta. Cruz, San Miguel districts," she added.

If he decides to run, Borgy would be the youngest mayoralty candidate in Manila's history.

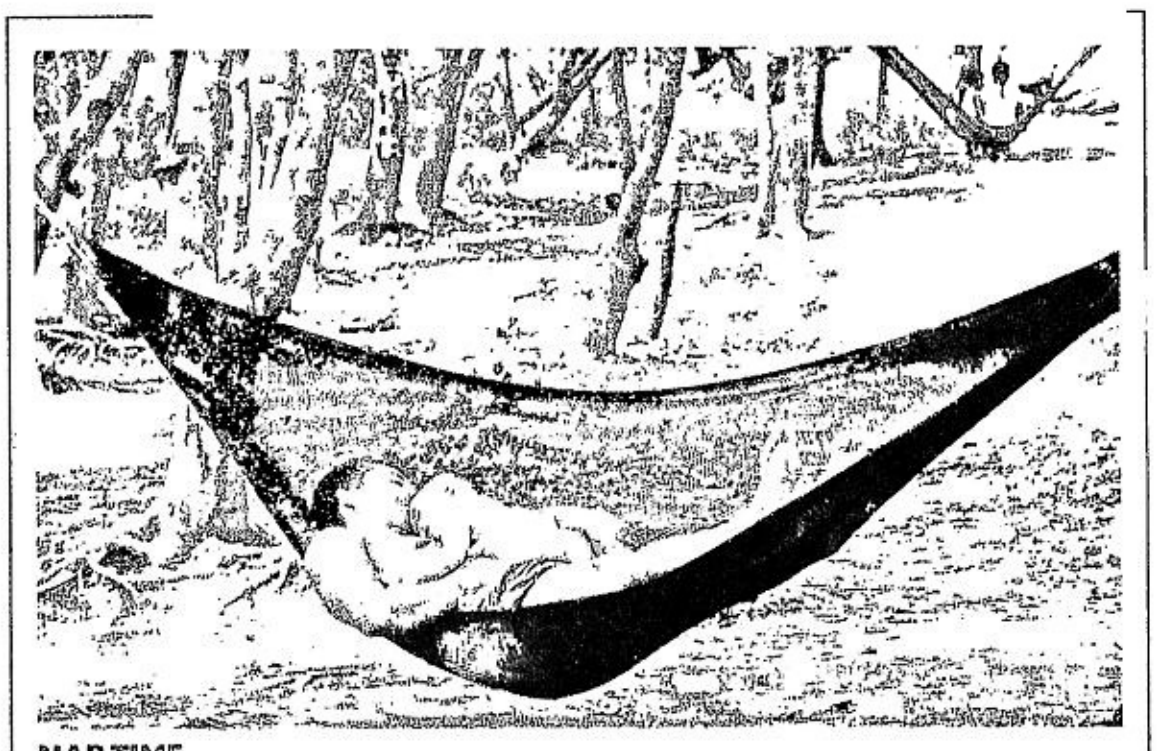
Other politicians who are reportedly eyeing the post include Senators Panfilo Lacson and Alfredo Lim, Manila Reps. Joey Hizon and Rodolfo Bacani, Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna and former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

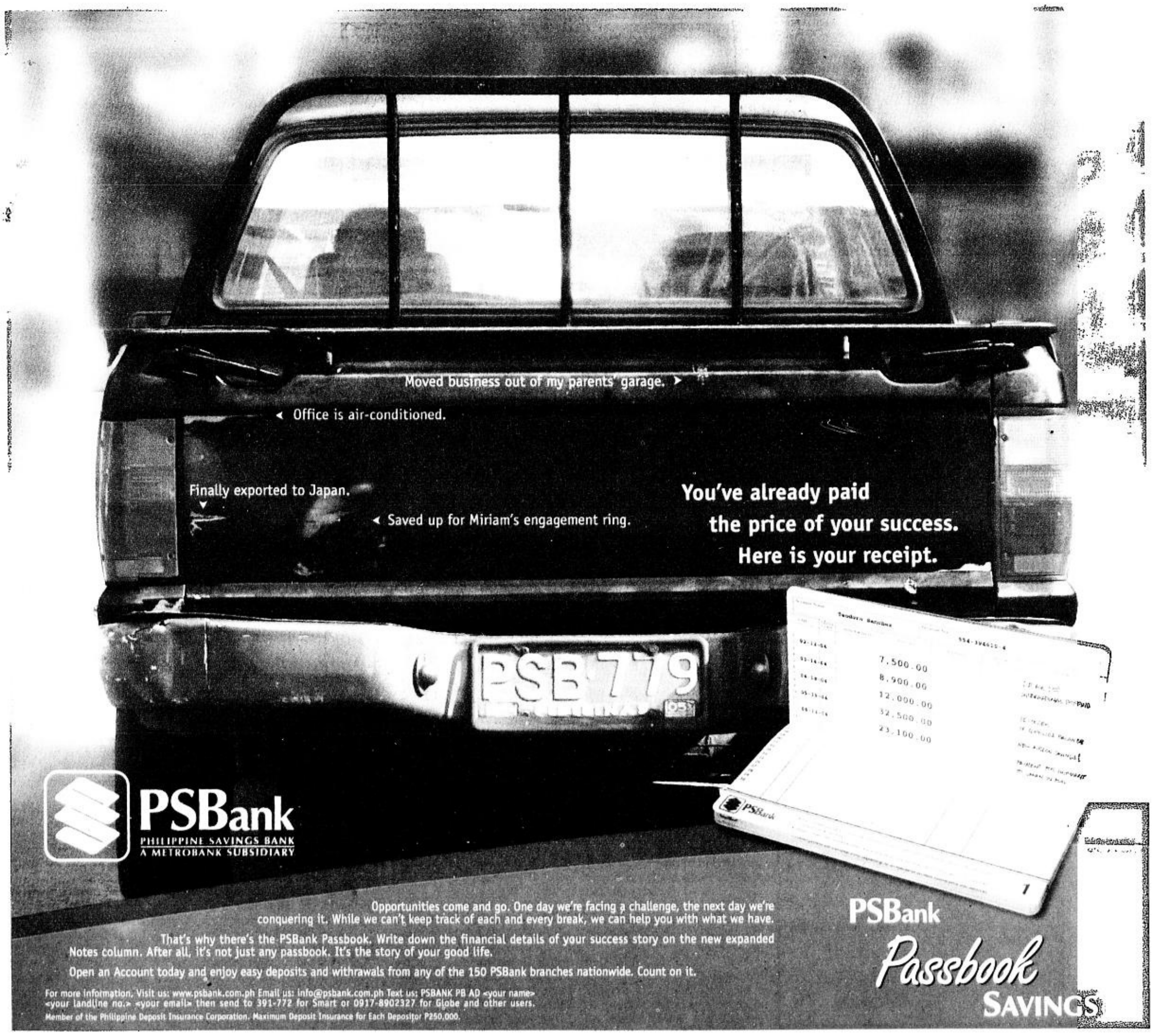
Borgy who has modeled for several clothing companies, recently finished his studies at the City College of New York, majoring in advertising and public relations, while working part-time at an independent record label.

In a June 2004 INQUIRER interview, he was described as a "sensitive, witty, young man finely attuned to the reality around him."

In the same interview, Borgy said he was not being groomed for politics but admitted that he might later run for public office.

"I think politics has been part of the plan for my family, my mom included. So I can't say I'm not gonna do it. But in the next five years, definitely not. Maybe in 10 years. But I don't really think about it just yet. Not a conscious direction that I'm going," he added.


NAP TIME
Unable to doze off because of the heat inside their house, Chris Francisco and his 1-year-old son take to a hammock strung up between two trees on R-10, Navotas. RAFFY LERMA



Bulaong assumes post as new NBI assistant director

By Tina G. Santos

EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS OF the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) apparently had a change of heart and are now singing a different tune.

Just a few months after asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint an insider to the bureau's second highest post, they have welcomed former Manila Police District (MPD) chief Pedro Bulaong's appointment as the NBI assistant director.

BULAONG

His appointment was announced by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday, several months after he retired from the service.

In a letter to Ms Arroyo last August, at least 26 NBI officials had asked her to appoint "an insider who similarly rose from the ranks like Mantaring ... to be the next assistant head of the bureau."

The officials also cited a provision in the NBI Manual of Operations that in the selection of an assistant director, a candidate for the position must be a lawyer, unlike Bulaong.

But yesterday, officials said they respected the President's appointments.

"We are professionals here, if there was indeed an appointment made by the President, then we have to welcome General Bulaong with open arms and open hearts. That's the prerogative of the President," said lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, deputy director for regional operations service. "I urge my colleagues to respect the President's decision."

Esmeralda added that the law creating the NBI has no provision saying that the bureau's assistant director must be a lawyer.

"The NBI Manual of Operations was only internal," he said.

Mantaring met Bulaong briefly behind closed doors when the new appointee went to the NBI shortly after noon yesterday to officially assume his post.

"We talked on matters that we would be working on together," Mantaring said, adding that he would immediately introduce Bulaong to other bureau officials.

According to Mantaring, Bulaong's track record in the police service would be an asset to the institution.

"He's a seasoned investigator, he has his own track record," the NBI chief said.

Bulaong, meanwhile, said he was grateful to the President and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez for putting their trust in him.

"I'm here to work. I'm sure I'll get along well with everybody here," Bulaong said.

"I'm hoping *na maging kaibigan ko ang lahat* (I'm hoping that everyone will be my friend). We will work together," he added.

Opposition shows support for Binay

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION showed up at Makati City Hall yesterday to show their support for Mayor Jejomar Binay who is expecting Malacañang to hand down an order suspending him anytime based on a complaint filed by his political rival.

Some 30 leaders of opposition parties, civil society and militant groups also criticized what they called an obvious attempt by the government to neutralize their camp before the May 2007 elections.

"There is really no case. This is purely political harassment," Binay said of the complaint filed by Roberto Brillante, which is now pending in the Office of the President.

The complaint, lodged against Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and 16 city councilors, alleged that they had padded City Hall's payroll with ghost employees. It has been forwarded by the Department of Interior and Local Government to Malacañang for action.

Binay has denied the accusation and said that all the alleged ghost employees on Brillante's complaint were City Hall workers.

On Friday, the mayor had asked the Court of Appeals to stop Malacañang from evaluating the complaint against him.

"Sir, the case against you is you are the president of the opposition," Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna told Binay, who also heads the United Opposition.

Laughter erupted in the audience, some of whom had joined Binay in last year's massive anti-administration rallies held in Makati, including former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr., Linggoy Alcuaz of the National Coordinating Council for Volunteers, filmmakers Armida Siguion-Reyna and son Carlitos, members of militant groups and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, an organization aligned with former President Joseph Estrada.

METROBRIEFS

Nabbed for drugs

SOUTHERN Police District anticrime agents arrested over the weekend three men for allegedly peddling the popular party drug Ecstasy in Makati City. Senior Insp. Arvin Fabro, head of the SPD community relations office, identified the suspects as John Leo Santos, 29; Al Shariff Mahidi Balan, 26 and Christopher Astraquillo, 21. The three were arrested in a buy-bust operation led by Senior Insp. Edward Mallo of the District Special Anti-Crime Unit last Saturday in front of a 24-hour convenience store on Makati Avenue. A policeman, who acted as a poseur-buyer, was able to buy three Ecstasy tablets worth P3,300 from Balan, said Fabro. The police recovered 80 more tablets worth P100,000 from the suspects who were charged with possession and distribution of illegal drugs.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Girl needs help

TWO-YEAR-OLD Lyka Jangas is fighting for her life. After being diagnosed with cancer of the uterus in February, she has been regularly undergoing chemotherapy. Her family, however, cannot shoulder all her medical expenses and is appealing for financial assistance from readers who would like to help Lyka. The little girl also needs to undergo a CT scan for an abdominal operation that she must undergo in January. Lyka's mother, Cleofe, can be contacted at 0906-7707036. Donations can be deposited in the bank account (account number 1446-0522-30) of her father, Florencio Jangas, at any Land Bank of the Philippines branch.

DID YOU KNOW

THE WORLD-FAMOUS Bamboo Organ, housed in Saint Joseph's Church in Las Piñas City, was built in the 1820s by Spanish priest Father Diego Cera. Before its construction, Cera had the bamboos buried for years under the seashore to harden the materials and render them immune to insects.

In the 1970s, Belgian parish priest Father Mark Lesage organized fund-raising projects for the repair of the organ, which had deteriorated through the years. He even got celebrities Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III to perform before more than 5,000 persons. Proceeds from the projects financed the shipment of the Bamboo Organ to Germany for restoration work. The instrument now has 1,031 original bamboo pipes and 129 new metal ones. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

DOH team to check other infection reports

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE INVESTIGATION TEAM created to probe the death of babies born at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City started reviewing hospital records and interviewing doctors yesterday afternoon.

"They went to the hospital for the ongoing investigation," Health Undersecretary Margarita Galon told the INQUIRER.

She said the team would also look into reports that apart from the seven babies who died days after they were born at the hospital on Oct. 4, there were other babies born there on other dates who had died of neonatal sepsis, a bacterial infection.

The delivery room of the hospital has remained closed after officials ordered it shut following the deaths.

The room is undergoing decontamination and would be reopened only after tests show that it is safe to use.

Hospital records said that out of the 28 babies born at the hospital on Oct. 4, at least 12 babies had developed neonatal sepsis or an infection in the blood.

Six of them died on Oct. 6 while the seventh victim died on Oct. 7, hospital doctors also said.

Five of the babies were brought home after they were born but were brought back to the hospital days later when they showed symptoms like fever and discoloration. The other two remained in the hospital because of early signs of infection.

Mothers of the babies said that the hospital's delivery room was crowded and dirty. There were numerous deliveries on Oct. 4 but hospital employees allegedly did not clean the room or the beds and just asked mothers to lie down, they added.

Hospital officials admitted conditions at the hospital had been difficult that day as water lines, damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo" days ago, had not been reconnected.

Power had been restored after the typhoon but that morning, according to another doctor, a power transformer exploded, cutting off supply to the hospital.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier said he had already asked the help of Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio in repairing parts of the hospital damaged by the typhoon.

A YOUNG girl clings to her mother who is being taught to read by a volunteer of a church-based literacy program in Diliman, Quezon City. ROMY HOMILLADA

The joys of literacy in Diliman

By Frankie Llaguno
Contributor

SEEING UNDERSTANDING dawn in unschooled folks' eyes as they discover the joys of reading is a reward volunteer teachers await with delight at a barangay in Quezon City.

The teachers are Diliman Community Bible Church (DCBC) members who run a Saturday church literacy program for the indigent. Volunteers first undergo orientation by a literacy expert at the University of the Philippines before they go out with their training manuals.

Their students are poor and illiterate people from their early teens to 60s. Most are members of the church but the program also accepts nonmembers.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, the volunteer trainers on duty were Lydia Arcellana, a UP literature and English professor, and Maquette Alforque, who runs a business.

They were in charge of the elementary and intermediate English courses while Miriam "Nam" Ugaddan, the training program coordinator, was handling the basic Tagalog course.

"We started with 16 trainees, including two men, but the men dropped out because one had to go back to driving a tricycle and the other, because he moved to a faraway place," Ugaddan explained.

The training was being held in one of several clean, pastel-colored mini buildings collectively called the UP Barangay Hall on C.P. Garcia Avenue. A token rent of P100 was paid for the use of the building.

Accompanying the trainers was Vic Mandalupe, the DCBC's point man in the barangay, who shared the teachers' delight with their students.

"I recall a 61-year-old woman who didn't touch the hymn book in church because she didn't want people to know she was illiterate. Now she reads and sings from the book with gusto," Mandalupe mused.

The DCBC's Saturday church literacy program fits in with a universal drive to eliminate illiteracy among the world's poor.

One of the UN Millenium Development Goals adopted in September 2000 during a summit attended by nearly 190 countries was achieving universal primary education by 2015.

The goal was complemented by the Micah Challenge, a Christian global campaign to increase understanding of justice issues and engagement with the poor as an integral part of the Christian faith.

The campaign has a worldwide network of over 150 Evangelical Christian relief, development and justice agencies working together to help indigents, with education as one of the priorities.

The government has also launched several programs to eliminate illiteracy in the country.

According to the 2003 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey, one in every 10 Filipinos aged 10 to 64 does not know how to read or write. In a population of 85 million, that amounts to 8.5 million illiterates.

Another government concern is the sharp decline of English-speaking skills in the last two decades.

Spurred by globalization, Malacañang, through the Department of Education, is spearheading a move to improve English proficiency for Filipinos to be able to compete in the global economy.

In line with this, "English by Radio," a BBC-British Council program, is being broadcast on the government-owned AM station *Radio Ng Bayan* for 15 minutes from Tuesday to Friday. The Department of Education has urged private radio stations to air the program too.

The DCBC project was initiated by Jess Espina, an elder, last May.

Espina was a student activist in the 1970s, a child of the First Quarter Storm who opposed the Marcos regime. According to him, his grassroots work then made him appreciate the liberating effects of literacy and numeracy skills on the poor.

This month, the church-based literacy program will end its first semester. A review will then be undertaken, including ways to train more volunteer and attract more male participants.

So far, however, it is obvious that the joys of literacy have been discovered by poor, formerly illiterate folks—and rediscovered by their teachers in Diliman.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) is inviting all interested Contractors categorized as Small "B" and duly registered with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) to submit sealed bids for the completion of the Registry of Deeds building of Davao City.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWO & 18/100 (P3,876,602.18)**. The source of fund is the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. C-05-0007042 dated December 29, 2005. Project completion shall be One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar days from the receipt of Notice of Proceed (NTP).

Interested bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). Eligibility Documents can be secured from **October 31 to November 3, 2006** at the BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat, 5th Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS)**.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements is on November 10, 2006. Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of Bid Documents on November 17-21, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS: THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00)**.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the LRA, Multi-Purpose Hall, 5th Floor, LRA Building on November 22, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Sealed bids shall be received and opened on December 4, 2006, 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and to accept such offer that may be considered advantageous to LRA.

16 October 2006.

(Sgd.) **RONALD A. ORTILE**
Chairman
BAC-Infrastructure

(PDI - Oct 17, 2006)

The memory of Doy Laurel lingers

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

Ang langaw na nakatungtong sa likod ng kalabaw ay mataas pa sa kalabaw (The fly perched atop the carabao thinks it's taller than the carabao)— a Filipino saying.

When President Cory Aquino referred to her vice president, Salvador "Doy" Laurel, as *"langaw"* or fly she went overboard.

Doy was the second highest official of the land at the time he had a tiff with President Cory. So how could he be accused of being an interloper?

By virtue of his high position, Doy was not unexpected to be arrogant, brazen and full of hot air like a typical Batangueño (although this falls into the characteristic Filipino trait of stereotyping) that he was. But he was not; he was humble.

And, like the true-blue Batangueño (again, another generalization) that he was, Doy didn't pick up a fight with President Cory. A Batangueño is always supposed to say of a woman: *Ang babae, di sinasaktan; siya'y sinasamba* (A woman is not to be battered, she's to be adored).

Many Pinoys miss the former vice president, not because of his being a Batangueño but because of his humility.

* * *

What touched many Pinoys, who are sentimental by nature, about Doy was his parting words to his son Cocoy at his deathbed. He told Cocoy he had been through it all—fame, fortune and glory.

But what mattered most, he said, was love for one's fellowmen exemplified through selfless service. After all, one can't take material possessions and positions with him to his grave, he added.

Doy's advice is something to ponder over during the celebration of All Saints Day on Nov. 1. Everything in this world is temporary.

* * *

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has ordered an investigation of the deaths of seven newborn infants at the Rizal Medical Center on Oct. 4. It was the biggest number of fatalities in a single day at the hospital's delivery room and, for that matter, in all other hospitals where babies are born.

Dr. Winston Go, RMC director, apologized to the mothers who lost their babies to neo-natal sepsis or infection due to the hospital's unhygienic condition.

Doc, ganoon na lamang palagi! You always apologize whenever your staff's shortcomings are brought to your attention, but you don't do something to correct the problem.

I should know. I once brought to Go's attention the arrogance of some doctors and nurses of RMC toward their patients at the hospital delivery room.

About three years ago, a student nurse doing on-the-job training at the RMC complained to my (now temporarily defunct) "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" public service program about what she saw at the hospital's delivery room.

The student nurse said she saw how a doctor pulled the hair of a mother who was about to have a baby. She also witnessed how a nurse shouted to another patient to shut up since she enjoyed sex that resulted in her getting pregnant.

Pontiff names 4 new 'inspirational' saints

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI bestowed sainthood Sunday on four faithful whose lives he hopes will inspire courage in Catholics, including a frail French nun who braved the American frontier and a Mexican bishop who helped a clandestine seminary survive in anticlerical Mexico in the 1920s.

The new names in the roll call of saints also included two Italian pioneers: a nun who advocated public schooling for girls in Italy in the late 17th century, and a priest who was a trailblazer for education of the deaf, dedicating himself to poor children in Naples.

"The Church rejoices in the four new saints," Benedict told a crowd of several thousand faithful for the ceremony in St. Peter's Square. "May their example inspire us and their prayers obtain for us guidance and courage."

Among those celebrating the Mass on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica were ailing Chicago Cardinal Francis George and five churchmen from Indiana, where Mother Theodore Guerin, who is one of the new saints, established a college for women in what was then log cabin country. St. Mary-of-the-Woods College enrolled its first student in 1841.

Despite decades of poor health, Guerin, who was born in Brittany in 1798, set out with a handful of fellow French nuns for Indiana. "There they found a simple log-cabin chapel in the heart of the forest" and knelt down to give thanks, the Pope said in his homily.

The nuns moved into a drafty farmhouse nearby and turned its porch into their own chapel.

Guerin for years resisted the opposition of a local bishop to her plans to establish a local community of nuns. "Mother Theodore overcame many challenges and persevered in the work that the Lord has called her to do," including schools and orphanages throughout Indiana, the Pope added.

Said college alumna Angela E. White, 42, from Indianapolis: "She fought against all the odds. Mother Theodore once said that we are not asked to do all of God's work in this world, just the work we can do, and I think this is exactly what we have to do."

Also in the crowd was the man whose restored vision was judged by the Vatican to be the miracle necessary for Guerin's sainthood.

"Being here with so many faithful, seeing the Pope," said Phil McCord, "it's really overwhelming." McCord, a 60-year-old engineer who manages the campus of Guerin's order, recalled how he had faced a corneal transplant after damage from cataract surgery. He entered the chapel at the college, asked Guerin for help and his eyesight started to improve the next morning, said McCord, the son of a lay Baptist minister.

Also made a saint was Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia. The Mexican was a great uncle of the Rev. Marcial Maciel Degollado, the founder of the conservative Legionaries of Christ order whom Benedict earlier this year restricted from saying Mass in public after years of Vatican investigation into accusations of sexual abuse of seminarians.

Guizar Valencia, sometimes disguising himself as a street vendor or a musician, risked his life to tend to the wounded during the Mexican revolution. In 1921, he renovated a seminary in Xalapa, which had been confiscated, but the government seized the building again. He succeeded in having the seminary operate clandestinely for 15 years in Mexico City. He died in 1938.

Benedict hailed Guizar Valencia for working tirelessly, even facing persecution, to ensure that seminarians were properly educated "according to the heart of Christ."

Filippo Smaldone, an Italian priest who lived from 1848-1923, pioneered education and other assistance for the deaf and founded an order of nuns, the Congregation of the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Hearts.

Rosa Venerini was another social pioneer. Living from 1656-1728, she founded the Congregation of the Holy Venerini Teachers and pushed to establish the first public schools for girls in Italy.

It was Benedict's first canonization ceremony in nearly a year. *AP*

Pope Benedict on Sunday made four new saints of the Roman Catholic Church, including a French woman who worked among Christian pioneers in the American state of Indiana in the 19th century

It was the Pope's second canonization ceremony since his election in April 2005

Mother Theodore Guerin
1798-1856
BEATIFIED
25 October 1998
PROFILE
Born in France. Together with five other nuns, Guerin founded the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Indiana, U.S.A.
Worked with poor pioneers, set up Catholic schools in Indiana that are still active today

Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia
1877-1938
BEATIFIED
29 January 1995
PROFILE
Born into a rich family in Mexico
Worked with the poor, established childrens' schools, struggled against policies of the anti-clerical governments
Served as bishop of Veracruz, Mexico

Father Filippo Smaldone
1848-1923
BEATIFIED
8 May 1996
PROFILE
An Italian priest who opened institutes for the deaf-mute in southern Italy and founded the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The order has some 400 members today

Sister Rosa Venerin
1656-1728
BEATIFIED
4 May 1952
PROFILE
An Italian nun who started the first public schools for girls in Italy
Founded an order of teaching nuns, now known as the Maestre Pie Venerini, and opened about 50 schools before her death

Source: Catholic Community Forum

REUTERS

Ecuador tycoon, leftist set for election runoff

QUITO, ECUADOR—A RIGHT-wing tycoon and an ally of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez will face a November runoff for Ecuador's presidency after neither candidate secured enough votes for a first-round election victory, preliminary results showed on Sunday.

Banana mogul Alvaro Noboa, one of Ecuador's wealthiest men, held a slight edge after gaining surprising momentum to challenge frontrunner Rafael Correa, a leftist former finance minister who has spooked investors with talk of debt default.

Noboa had won about 27 percent of votes and Correa 22 percent, according to preliminary results from nearly half of ballot boxes counted by authorities.

The results may not represent national voting trends as ballot box vote counts are usually received first from cities.

But the results echoed earlier exit polls and both candidates said the data showed a certain run-off.

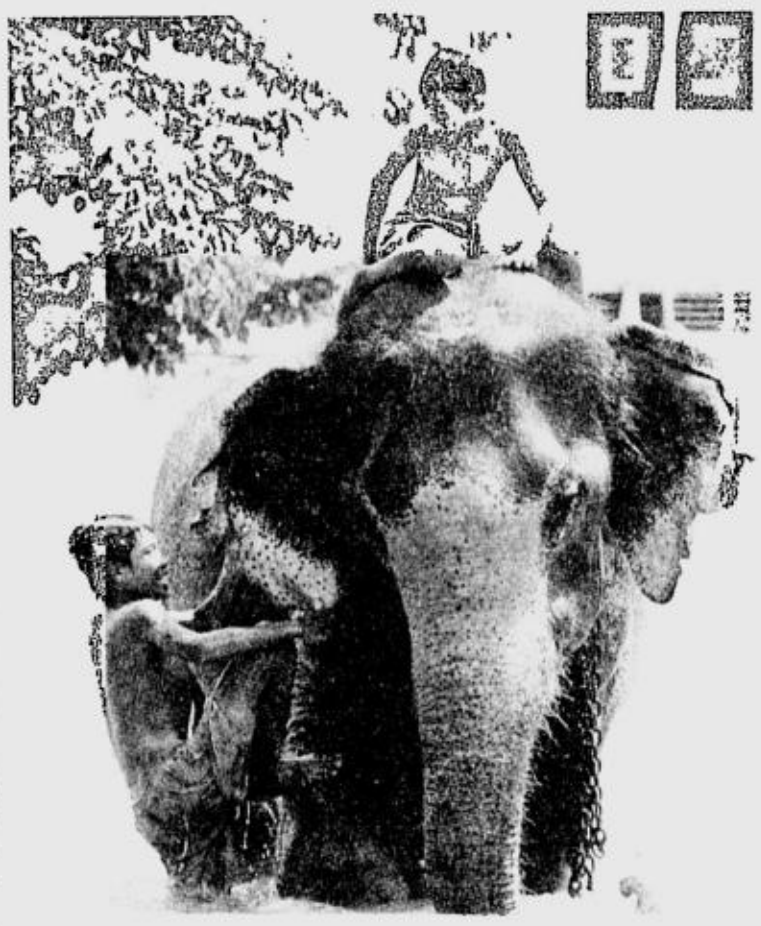
Little known until earlier this year, Correa, 43, had soared in the polls as Ecuadoreans fed up with the traditional political class were captured by his anti-establishment message and promises to sweep away the political old guard.

But Noboa, on his third presidential run, lured voters with promises of jobs and housing in a populist campaign handing out wheelchairs, medicine and even cash. He played well on fears Correa would take Ecuador down a socialist path and roll back economic liberties.

"The people don't want communism, they want jobs, housing and health," Noboa said, celebrating in his tropical hometown of Guayaquil and urging voters to support him in a run-off.

If no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the votes on Sunday or 40 percent of votes with a 10 percentage point advantage, a run-off will be held on Nov. 26 between the two contenders.

Speaking to reporters, Correa dismissed the exit poll results as biased and said he had won the first round but had been victim of voting irregularities. *Reuters*



FLOODBUSTER
Thai boys play in flood water with an elephant in Ayutthaya province, Thailand, Oct. 16. Flooding in Thailand have killed 39 people and sickened 138,000 others and has hit 43 of Thailand's 76 provinces since August. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

54th bird flu death in Indonesia

JAKARTA—A 67-year-old woman who was confirmed Monday as being infected with the bird flu virus died overnight, bringing Indonesia's bird flu death toll to 54, the head of the team of doctors treating her said. *AFP*

Money for having fewer children

BEIJING—China will next year introduce new financial incentives to encourage its 750 million rural residents to have fewer children, state media said Monday. Parents in the countryside aged over 60 will each year receive 600 yuan ($76) if they have only one child, or two girls, the China Daily reported, quoting the National Population and Family Planning Commission. The lack of a social security system for China's farmers has often forced couples to exceed birth quotas or abandon girls so they could have a son. Farmers depend on sons to take care of them in old age as daughters are married off. Forced abortions and sterilizations of women by government officials, as well as abandonment and infanticide of baby girls due to traditional preferences for sons, have been widespread, according to rights groups. *AFP*

31 killed in Iraq revenge attacks

BAGHDAD—Shouting for revenge after the slaying of 14 Shiite workers, black-clad militias killed at least 31 people in a spasm of sectarian violence in a town north of Baghdad, police, doctors and local residents said on Sunday. Iraq has been gripped by sectarian violence between Muslim Shi'ites and Sunnis since the bombing of a Shiite shrine in February. Thousands have been killed in tit-for-tat revenge killings and more than 300,000 have fled their homes. In an open letter dictated to his chief lawyer Khalil Dulaimi during a four-hour meeting on Saturday in his prison, former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein urged Iraqis to put aside differences and set only one goal—to drive out US troops. "Victory is at hand but don't forget that your near-term goal is confined to liberating your country from the forces of occupation," Saddam said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters on Sunday. *Reuters*

Pastor shot dead in Sulawesi

JAKARTA—An unidentified gunman shot dead a Christian pastor on Monday in Indonesia's Central Sulawesi province, sparking fears of a return to sectarian fighting that once gripped the region. Reverend Irianto Kongkoli was shot in the head at a shop in the provincial capital of Palu, 1,650 km northeast of Jakarta. Central Sulawesi has been tense since the executions last month of three Christian militants over their role in Muslim-Christian violence that gripped the province's Poso region from 1998 to 2001. *Reuters*

Patent applications double

GENEVA—THE NUMBER OF patents filed worldwide has nearly doubled in a decade, fueled by a "meteoric rise" in Asia, the World Intellectual Property Organization said Monday in a global survey of patents.

The number of patent applications filed at national and international level rose from 884,400 to 1.6 million between 1995 and 2004, an average annual increase of about 4.5 percent, WIPO said in its "Patent Report 2006." The data mirrored economic growth in the world and the changing balance of the world economy, according to WIPO Assistant Director General Francis Gurry.

Three-quarters of the patent filings are concentrated in five key areas. The three traditional industrial powers—the United States, Japan and the European Patent Office—are now joined by South Korea and China, the report said.

"Over the last 10 years, the number of patents filed by residents in South Korea increased by 268 percent. The number of patent applications filed by residents in China increased by 488 percent. The world average was 42 percent," Gurry told journalists, adding that it was a "meteoric rise." Patent applications by nonresident foreigners rose by an average of 7.4 percent a year worldwide, especially in emerging markets—Brazil, China, India, South Korea and Mexico—but also in Europe and the United States, the data showed.

Patents protect the design or idea for new products or production processes for 20 years. *AFP*

US not building enough power plants

WASHINGTON—COMPANIES are not building power plants and power lines fast enough to meet growing demand, according to a group recently assigned by the federal government to assure proper operation of the power grid.

The North American Electric Reliability Council, in its annual report said the amount of power that could be generated or transmitted would drop below the target levels meant to ensure reliability on peak days in Texas, New England, the mid-Atlantic area and the Midwest during the next two to three years.

The council was established in 1965 after a blackout across the Northeast, and has since set voluntary standards for the industry. After the blackout of 2003, which covered a vast swath of the Midwest, Northeast and Ontario, Canada, Congress set up a process that will eventually give the council the authority to fine American companies that do not follow certain operating standards. It is seeking a similar designation in Canada, since—electrically speaking—the border is irrelevant.

For years, the council has produced often-gloomy annual reports, but this is the first to be officially filed with federal agencies—and to recommend specific action.

The report says, for example, that utilities should be encouraged to actively pursue financial incentives for customers to cut use during peak hours, thereby lowering demand for new power plants and transmission lines. Financial incentives could reward customers' installation of more efficient equipment or, more drastically, reward a factory for closing on a day when electricity supplies are expected to be tight.

Planning for adequate capacity has become more difficult with the restructuring of the electric industry. Where a handful of top-to-bottom companies once generated power, transmitted it and delivered it, now hundreds of companies are involved in only one or two phases of the process. At the same time, getting permits to build new power lines has become more difficult. *NYT*

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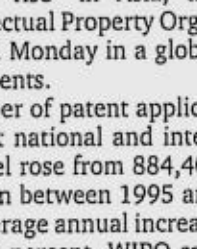

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Discord over sanctions

US presses China for tougher action on N. Korea

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES ON SUNDAY SOUGHT TO play down signs of discord with China over how to enforce UN sanctions imposed on North Korea over its declared nuclear test.

A day after the UN Security Council voted unanimously to slap weapons and financial sanctions against Pyongyang, questions loomed about whether the measures would be fully enforced amid reservations from China.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice insisted China would work to enforce the sanctions against North Korea despite Beijing's stated objections to cargo inspections.

"China is signed on to a resolution that pledges cooperation in stopping the proliferation trade with North Korea," Rice said.

"I'm quite certain that China has no interest in seeing the proliferation of dangerous materials from North Korea," she said.

Rice, who was due to meet Asian leaders starting Tuesday to discuss the enforcement of the sanctions, acknowledged that there were "many details to be worked out, particularly about how this embargo and interdiction might work."

The blunt-speaking US ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, said Beijing bore a "heavy responsibility" to carry out the sanctions.

The resolution adopted by the Security Council on Saturday bans trade with North Korea in dangerous weapons, bars the export of heavy conventional weapons to the Stalinist state, calls for a freeze on financial assets and imposes a travel ban on those linked to the country's nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction programs.

The most hotly contested measure was the call for cargo inspections, which aims to prevent the cash-strapped North Korean regime from selling material for an atomic bomb to terrorists or rogue states.

Bolton said the measure could be carried out mainly by inspecting North Korean cargo once it reached foreign shores but he did not rule out risky high-seas search operations.

China, Pyongyang's main trade partner which shares a land border with North Korea, said immediately after the vote that it would not carry out intrusive inspections Washington says are called for in the resolution.

In a Sunday statement, the Chinese foreign ministry said the UN resolution demonstrated international resolve while offering a way to defuse the crisis peacefully.

"We advocate that the UN Security Council's action has to show the firm position of the international community, but, on the other hand, it also should be conducive towards resolving the problems through peaceful dialogue," said ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao.

Russia has shared China's reluctance to back punishing sanctions favored by Japan and the United States. Moscow described the negotiations before the vote as "tense" and had favored time limits on any sanctions. In a concession, the United States agreed to drop any reference to a threat of military force.

While it remained unclear how the sanctions would be carried out, China and other world powers were in agreement in condemning North Korea for its nuclear test and its boycott of negotiations.

The resolution urged Pyongyang to give up its nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in a verifiable manner and return to international negotiations that it has boycotted for nearly a year. *AFP*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESOLUTION

- International "cooperative" action to inspect cargo to and from North Korea to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons
- North Korea should abandon all nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes
- Bans trade in materials, equipment, goods and technology that could contribute to North Korea's weapons programmes
- Bans trade in luxury goods
- Freeze funds, financial assets and economic resources that fund or support North Korea's missile activies
- Travel ban on people and their families who support or promote North Korea's policies on dangerous weapons programmes
- Intensify diplomatic efforts to facilitate the resumption of the six-party* talks aimed at convincing Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions

** Between North Korea, South Korea, United States, Russia, China and Japan*

REUTERS

A CHILD looks out of a kindergarten in the North Korean city of Hyangsan Oct. 12 in this photo from the World Food Program. The WFP said on Tuesday it would have to halt distribution of rations in North Korea by January unless more funds were received. REUTERS

Hardline generals seen behind nuke test

SEOUL—THREE HAWKISH generals in North Korea's all-powerful army pushed leader Kim Jong-Il into conducting his declared nuclear test, a leading analyst said Monday.

Other analysts also saw the hand of the 1.2 million-strong military as being behind the announcement, which shocked the world and prompted UN sanctions.

Nam Sung-Wook, a North Korea expert and professor at Korea University, identified Pak Jae-Gyong, Hyon Chol-Hae and Lee Myong-Su as the key drivers of Kim's brinkmanship.

"The trio, accompanying Kim like shadows, were definitely behind the decision to push ahead with the nuclear test," he said.

Nam said Pak and Hyon are deputy chiefs of the politburo of the Korean People's Army (KPA) and Lee is its deputy operations bureau chief.

The North's official statement announcing the test clearly showed it was designed to please the military, which under a Songun (army-first) policy gets the best of everything in the impoverished state.

"It (the test) marks an historic event as it greatly encouraged and pleased the KPA and people that have wished to have powerful self-reliant defense capability," read the statement.

Koh Yu-Hwan, another North Korean expert and professor at Dongkuk University, said "only a handful of people" must have been involved in the test but admitted difficulty in pinpointing who they were.

"Kim, holding absolute power up there, seemed to side with the hardline military rationale that if North Korea conceded to US pressure once, it would keep conceding," Koh said.

"The North Korean leader may have had difficulty denying his own-created Songun policy in the face of pressure from hardliners." The United States had increased pressure on North Korea to frustrate its nuclear ambitions but this served as justification for Kim to side with the hardliners, Koh said.

"The ultra-strong measure was taken according to Kim's belief that the US pressure had already become unendurable." Koh forecast that the North's diplomats, who advocate negotiation, would have little room to maneuver for the time being due to the hardliners.

One measure said to have especially hurt the leadership was US financial sanctions on a Macau bank accused of laundering money from counterfeiting and other illegal activities.

Hong Kong-based security consultancy International Risk said in a report last week that Kim would not easily collapse, having "made strenuous efforts to build up his power base within the military." It said the military had been well-fed and well-equipped despite general economic hardship in North Korea. *AFP*

20 times as many reactors needed to avoid apocalypse

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—THE world needs 20 times more nuclear power plants to avert an environmental apocalypse that could kill billions of people due to global warming blamed on growing greenhouse gas emissions, a top nuclear advocate said Monday.

The suggestion from John Ritch, director general of the World Nuclear Association, drew condemnation from environmental groups who say the risks of nuclear power—including weapons proliferation—far outweigh its potential benefits.

Speaking at a conference on nuclear energy in Sydney, Ritch said a 20-fold increase in the number of nuclear reactors globally was the minimum needed to meet the voracious demand for energy from fast-developing countries such as China and India.

In developed countries, around 1.4 billion people—or 20 percent of the global population—currently use about 80 percent of the world's energy supply, which comes mostly from burning coal and oil, which in turn produces greenhouses gases.

But China, India and other developing countries could soon outstrip the developed world in their greenhouse gas emissions, Ritch said.

"Scientists now warn, with ever increasing certainty, that greenhouse gas emissions, if continued at the present massive scale, will yield consequences that are, quite literally, apocalyptic," Ritch said.

Scientists predict an average increase in global temperatures of just a 2°C could cause increasingly severe weather patterns, droughts, flooding, species extinction, rising sea levels, widespread disease and famine.

"If those predictions hold true, the combined effect would be the death of not just millions, but billions of people, and the destruction of much of civilization on all continents," Ritch said.

Currently, around 440 nuclear reactors produce around one-sixth of the world's electricity. At least 8,880 reactors producing up to 10,000 Gigawatt hours of energy were needed to prevent a global catastrophe, Ritch said.

Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the air, which many scientists blame for global warming. Proponents of nuclear power say it is a cleaner alternative because it produces relatively little greenhouse gas emissions.

Critics, however, say the risk of nuclear proliferation by countries like North Korea and Iran, and the long-term problem of storing nuclear waste, undercut its viability as a safe alternative to fossil fuels. *AP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE
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■ **Army XI** tops Ang Liga/A24

Emir's son brings Asiad torch for Manila relay

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A HOMAGE TO THE COUNTRY'S RICH SPORTING past.

That's how the Asian Games Torch Relay must be regarded, according to Team Philippines Deputy Chief de Mission Mario Tanchangco.

"This is a great honor for us to be involved in the Torch Relay as it only visits the countries that have hosted the Games," the sepak takraw president said yesterday.

Tanchangco was among local sports officials who welcomed an 80-man delegation from the Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee that arrived last night, bringing with them the Asiad torch.

Coming in from Busan, South Korea, and going to Tokyo, Japan, by weekend, the Torch Relay is held in the eight countries that have hosted the quadrennial Games since 1950.

Honorary presentative

Sheik Joaan Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Asiad Torch Relay honorary representative and son of Qatar's Emir Sheik Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, headed the group that touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and were welcomed by local sports officials.

Also on hand were Qatar Equestrian Federation president, Sheik Hamad Bin Ali Al-Thani, Qatar Golf Federation chief Hassan Al Naomi, Ceremonies and Cultural Events director Sharif Hachico, Ambassador Extraordinary Abdulla Ahmed Al-Mutawaa and media and public relations head Katrina Michelle de Jersey.

They brought with them the symbol of the Asian Games, the torch shaped in the Qatari ceremonial horn that will be put in a cauldron for display on Wednesday at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

125 relay runners

Some 125 relay runners from sports, media and politics will take turns in carrying the torch starting at the Rizal Park grounds on Thursday.

The country's sporting heroes—equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, trackster Elma Muros-Posadas and bowlers Paeng Nepomuceno and Biboy Rivera—are among those who will carry the torch through 10 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila.

The relay will end at the Rizal Park, where activities are set to take place, on the same day.

The Philippines hosted the Games in 1954, right after the inaugural Asiad was held in New Delhi in 1951. Included stops are Japan (1958, 1994), Indonesia (1962), Thailand (1966, 1970, 1978 and 1998), Iran (1974), South Korea (1986, 2002) and China (1990). New Delhi also hosted the Games in 1982.

HIS Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani turns over the 15th Asian Games torch to PSC chair William Ramirez on his arrival at the NAIA yesterday. JESS YUSON

Torch is Forum topic

THE ARRIVAL OF THE ASIAN GAMES TORCH in the country will be the topic of discussion in a special session of the PSA Forum tomorrow at the Renaissance New World Hotel in Makati. Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair William "Butch" Ramirez, also the Chef de Mission of Team Philippines to the 15th Asiad in Doha, Qatar, leads the guests appearing in the 10:30 a.m. public sports program. He will be joined by Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee official Nicole Brown, Team RP Deputy Chef de Mission Mario Tanchanco and Asiad Task Force head Moying Martelino.

Gomez yields to Russian IM

FILIPINO NATIONAL MASTER JOHN PAUL Gomez bowed to Russian International Master Ildar Khairrulin in the 12th and penultimate round of the World Junior Chess Championship Sunday at the Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 20-year-old Gomez, in position overnight to achieve a grandmaster norm, thus remained at 7.0 points and dropped to a share of 16th place. A draw and a win in his last two games would have sewed up the norm for Gomez, who faces IM David Howell of England in the final round.

Armenian IM Zaven Andriasian beat leader IM Nikita Vitiugov to grab the lead in the event among players 20 years and under with 9.0 points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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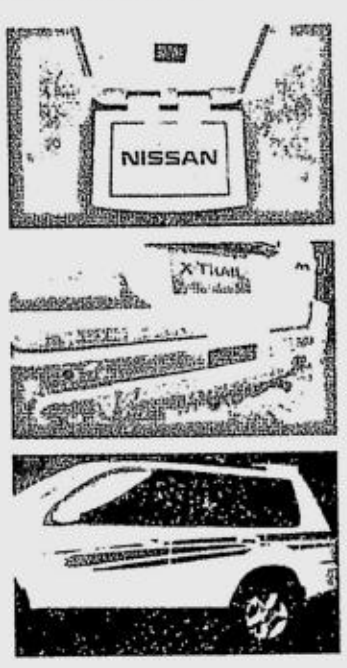

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GARMA: Only GM Mariano escaped.

Garma upstages 3 GMs for chess crown

Final standings: IM Chito Garma 10.5; GM Rogelio Antonio Jr., IM Richard Bitoon, IM Yves Rañola., IM Darwin Laylo 9.0; GM Nelson Mariano, NM Oliver Barbosa; 8.5 GM Mark Paragua, IM Ronald Dableo, NM Rolando Nolte 8.0

IN-FORM INTERNATIONAL MASTER Chito Garma humbled the country's grandmasters in ruling the 2nd Tanauan Active Chess Open Tournament at the First Asian Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City late Sunday.

Garma, a many-time chess Olympian, beat GM Mark Paragua in the 11th and final round to amass an impressive 10.5 points out of a possible 11 and pocket the top purse of P100,000 in the event held as part of the Calabarzon Chess Festival.

Currently chess coach of La Salle Green Hills, Garma also beat GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio in the fifth round and defending champion GM Eugene Torre in the sixth before being held to a draw by IM Richard Bitoon in the seventh round.

Bitoon trounced Antonio in the 11th round to score 9.0 points and finish in a tie for second to fifth places with his victim, Asian Games-bound IM Darwin Laylo and IM Yves Rañola, who trounced Torre.

Only Nelson Mariano II survived the bad luck that hounded the GMs in the final round, beating little-known Johnny Habla to pool 8.5 points and share sixth place with NM Oliver Barbosa, who bested NM Rolando Andador.

Paragua, the country's highest rated player, got stuck at 8.0 points and dropped into a tie for eighth to 10th places with former Asian Zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo and NM Rolando Nolte.

Dableo bowed to two-time national champion Laylo while Nolte bested six-time Philippine executive champion Dr. Jenny Mayor in the 11th round.

Torre wound up with 7.5 points while Mayor finished with 7.0 points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SCRIBES' SELECTIONS

Tribute to best of UAAP

By Jasmine W. Payo

PROUD PARENTS CAME IN SUPPORT of their sons.

Benedicto Jarencio, the 85-year-old father of Santo Tomas Tigers coach Pido Jarencio, arrived an hour before the UAAP Press Corps awards ceremony started.

Asked if Pido inherited his skills from him, the elder Jarencio remarked: "*Hindi namamana ang galing, pinag-aaralan at pinaghihirapan* (Excellence isn't inherited, you learn and work hard for it)."

But when Pido received the Coach of the Year plum, credit still went to his father.

"To my players, let's just work hard and we'll get the results, '*yan ang itinuro sa akin ng tatay ko* (that's what my father taught me)," Jarencio said in his acceptance speech during the rites on Sunday at Pantalan restaurant in Manila.

Ateneo's top gunner JC Intal, named Player of the Year, also came with parents Narciso Sr. and Bituin Intal.

Other well-wishers arrived to celebrate with the UST Tigers, who pulled off a stunning championship run this season in the men's basketball competition.

Game 3 hero Jojo Duncil received the Mr. Clutch citation, Dylan Ababou accepted the Sixth Man award and Jervy Cruz got the Defensive Player honor.

The scribes also awarded special recognitions to UST school officials Felicitas

SPECIAL guests Atienza (fifth from left, standing) and Codiñera (left) with the awardees, (clockwise, starting from left, kneeling) David, Barcellano, Catamora, Intal, coach Jarencio, J. Cruz, Evangelista, Ababou, Labagala, M. Cruz, Arellano, Duncil and Chan. RYAN LIM

Francisco, Fr. Ermito de Sagon and Mike Silbor and team managers Clarence Aytona, Timmy Chong and Rudy Yu.

Other winners included Marvin Cruz of UP as Most Improved Player, Marcy Arellano of the University of the East as Energy Player and Jeff Chan of Far Eastern as the Sportsmanship awardee.

Adamson's Ken Bono was named Scoring Champion and Ateneo's Chris Tiu Comeback Player of the Year.

The group also paid tribute to former UST guard John Lee Apil with a Posthumous Award. Apil died of electrocution in a swimming pool accident last April.

UE, represented by secretary-treasurer Brenn Perez, received a special citation for its efficiency as season host.

Presidential Adviser for Youth Sports Ali Atienza and former PBA superstar Jerry Codnera encouraged the winners to be fine examples to younger athletes.

Special Senior award recipients: UST's Allan Evangelista, FEU's Francis Barcellano, UP's Nestor David, UE's Robert Labagala, National University's Dave Catamora and Jason Malcontento and Ateneo's Intal, Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona.

Jinggoy fails to show up; BAP offices still off-limits

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DESPITE MUCH SPECULATION AND MEDIA hoopla, the offices of the Basketball Association of the Philippines remained padlocked yesterday as the Philippine Sports Commission put its reopening on hold until the country's cage issues are finally settled.

A handful of newsmen, photographers and BAP employees waited in vain for the arrival of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the newly elected BAP chief, who was expected to visit the old offices inside Rizal Memorial Sports Complex yesterday.

The senator last week said the PSC was ready to reopen the BAP offices, as promised by PSC chair Butch Ramirez. Estrada claimed that Ramirez made the assurance during a PSC budget hearing at the Senate.

People started milling around the premises of the PSC administration building before 2 p.m., Estrada's supposed time of arrival.

During that time, Ramirez was presiding over an emergency meeting at the PSC board room, two floors above the BAP office.

Sports commissioner Richie Garcia later said that the PSC board had unanimously decided to keep the BAP offices off-limits to outsiders.

"Whatever was agreed upon between the BAP and the POC, that's what the PSC will follow," said Garcia. "But until the (basketball) issue is settled, the offices will remain padlocked."

25 teams get going in Asian Ladies; S'woods-M picked

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

BAGUIO CITY—A FULL COMPLEMENT of 100 players from a record field of 25 teams see action beginning today in the 4th Asian Ladies Team Championship hosted by Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Twelve local clubs, three private groups and two teams from South Korea are spread out in three groups with organizers looking forward to an exciting three-day contest at the short but challenging par-69 course redesigned by Jack Nicklaus in 1976.

Based on the average handicaps of four players from each team, Manila Southwoods-Masters is the favorite to prevail in the eight-squad Group 1. Aguinaldo is top seed in Group 2 while Tagaytay Highlands III is rated No. 1 in Group 3.

Camp John Hay chair Bob Sobrepeña acknowledged the support of sponsors in sustaining the growth of the event, even as Shean Bedi, the senior vice president for marketing of the Camp John Hay Development Corp., who conceptualized the tournament, assured the participation of more foreign teams next year.

The other teams in Group 1 are Tagaytay Highlands, Aguinaldo-Sampaguita, Forest Nicklaus, Camp John Hay 1, Sta. Elena, Forest Palmer, and Riviera Ladies. Also playing in Group II are Korean Ladies Association, Tagaytay Highlands II, Villamor, Manila Southwoods-Legends, Malarayat Ladies 1, Golf Divas, Forest Hills and Camp John Hay.

Completing the Group III roster are Malarayat Ladies II, Don Bosco Golf Team, Baguio Country Club, Philippine Axa Life, WPGTA, Bloga and Aguinaldo-Ilang Ilang.

Wack Wack topped Group I last year, Forest Hills Nicklaus ruled Group II while Villamor Chapter Team II scored in Group III.

Club manager and tournament director Jeric Hechanova presided over the team captains' meeting after yesterday's official practice session. The modified Stableford system of scoring will be used with the top three scorers counting.

Tagaytay Highlands 1 (Hedy See, Marilen Yaptangco, Totelle Dizon, Farrah Imperial), Camp John Hay 1 (Cha Daciano, Joy Sevilla, Leonor Corpuz, Lilibeth Ratcliffe) and Camp Aguinaldo-Sampaguita (Josie Untal, Malou Belendres, Mabel Salivio, Artie Mendiana)—all with an average team handicap of 13—are also projected to figure prominently for the championship.

Rudy Project, CJH Development Co., CJH Manor Hotel, Club Leisure Management Inc., Federal Management and Maintenance Inc., Le Chef at the Manor, Fila, Sustagen Premium, Wilson Sports, Golden Nutritious Food Corp., TSAJ Sales Inc., Palm Garden, Samsonite, Golforce Inc., and Mario's Restaurant are the sponsors.

HIGH HOPES: RP team members (from left) Cua, Pimentel, Bitara and Liang with Gordon Laborada, SM Sports Central marketing chief (center).

RP traditional wushu squad joins China tilt

A FOUR-MAN NATIONAL WUSHU squad, led by former world champion Lester Pimentel, opens its bid in the 2nd World Traditional Wushu Championship which starts today in an ancient Shaolin temple in Zhengzhou, China.

Aside from Pimentel, the other members of the RP squad who are out to make another dent in the sport long dominated by the Chinese are Garry Cua, Theodorica Bitara and Maureen Liang. Head of delegation is Ong Chiao Hing.

Traditional wushu, according to Pimentel, is different from contemporary wushu because its routines for fighting and self-defense were created by masters of different styles more than a century ago.

Contemporary wushu routines are created for sports competition.

The team, backed by the Wushu Federation of the Philippines and sponsored by SM Sports Central and Accel, is confident of pulling off a surprise in the 66-nation meet.

"They have trained long for this tournament, so I'm sure they're all ready against their rivals," said Ong.

Ozamiz five turns back Tribu Sugbu

CANTILAN, SURIGAO del Sur—Reigning champion Ozamiz Cotta came alive in the last two minutes to best archrival Tribu Sugbu, 91-87, Sunday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Davao Gym*)
6 p.m.—Bacchus/Harbour vs Montana

(*Pagadian Gym*)
7 p.m.—Cellular Pawnshop vs Pagadian

Last year's MVP Marlon Basco, new recruit Lou Gatumbato and PBL veteran Bruce Dacia came to Ozamiz's rescue to give Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's charges their third win in five games.

Trailing from the start, Ozamiz finally hit its stride in the closing minutes to deal the Arthro/Skygo-backed Cebuanos of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac their third loss in four games in the tournament supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

Gatumbato tied the count at 87, Basco broke it with an undergoal stab and then Dacia sealed the win with two charities.

The Cebuanos led from the start of the match, which highlighted this town's 150th founding anniversary. Tribu jumped to a 32-17 first-quarter advantage and was still up 78-72 going into the last canto.

Ozamiz turned the game around by limiting Tribu to nine points while scoring 19 in the final period.

Basco led all scorers with 20 points and outplayed Tribu's JR Baby Shaq" Quiñahan.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 91—Basco 20, Dacia 14, Guerrero 14, Bat-of 11, Cavan 10, Bansil 10, Gatumabato 6, Liangco 3, Nicdao 2, Libatog 1, Alvarado 0, Alberto 0, Dellna 0.

TRIBU 87—Co 18, Bucao 10, De Guzman 10, Almacin 9, Mercado 8, Ababon 5, Quinahan 5, Abelong 5, Gadiane 5, Sevilla 4, Santos 2.

Quarters: 17-32, 46-59, 72-78, 91-87

SPORTSWATCH

Spalding wows 'em

THE COUNTRY'S BRIGHTEST college hoopsters were all thumbs-up for the new NBA-Spalding basketball which made its Philippine debut in the recent UAAP-NCAA All Star Games. Most Valuable Players Kenneth Bono (UAAP) and Sam Ekwe (NCAA) gave high praises for the new official NBA game ball using Spalding's cutting edge Cross Traxxion technology. "The new Spalding ball is good, it has a fine grip," said Ekwe, of NCAA champion San Beda. Bono, who led Adamson to the UAAP Final Four, agreed with Ekwe. "It not only feels good in my hands, it also looks great."

FINE GRIP: Samuel Ekwe

PBA sportswriting contest Saturday

THE LUZON QUALIFYING LEG OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS WRITING CONtest put up by the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) will be held this Saturday during the Sta. Lucia-Purefoods tussle in San Fernando, La Union. Only college students are qualified to join in the meet being staged in partnership with the PBA Press Corps. Interested parties can register at the office of Mayor Mary Jane Ortega. The Oct. 21 elimination is the second in the three-part provincial eliminations scheduled by the PBA to determine the three qualifiers representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to the national finals slated later this year. The Visayas leg was held two weeks ago in Dumaguete.

LGBA derby at Araneta today

THE THIRD LEG OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 5-Stag derby series continues at the Araneta Coliseum today with more than 100 matches on tap. Top contenders in the LGBA Gamecocker Breeder of the Year race are Dalwin Yulangco, Raffy Campos, Benny Lim, John Daguio, Vice Gov. Windell Chua, Romy Tan, Boyet Sison, Buddy Robrigado, Alvin Acosta, Jess de Veyra, Ariel de Guzman and Boyet Plaza. Another round sizzles at Araneta on Thursday. The LGBA Grand Championship derby unfolds on Nov. 4 at San Juan Coliseum with the backing of B-Meg Derby Ace, Gran Matador, Purina, Thunderbird, Lakpue Drug Inc. and Asvet.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Gentleman's Lady (2), Raging River (3), Brazen Truth/Magic Bullet (7), Red Anya (5)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Queen Esther (4), Dragon King (8), Silver Anna (2), Royal Halo (6)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—My Nenang (8), True Account (11), Saptenarian (9), Fiery Bull (12), Sweet Luvin (4)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sexy Eyes (1), Pele (3), Powerhead (7), Madam Leonora (13), Mr. Chingbol/Reality Show (4)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ginja (8), Awesome Power (1), Wild Orphan (5), Real material (7), Lovely Tara (9)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lady Catchy/He's A Balong (11), Dondon's Entry (5), American Idol (1), Expidder (10), Desert Breeze (8)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Napa Valley (13), Head Turner (12), Pipoutte (5), Original (10), Queen's Gold (3)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Clear Stone (8), El Love Senora (13), American Music (3), Spell Bound (5), Parrot Man (12), Seniority (9)

Sta. Lucia's Espino is week's best player

THERE IS A GOOD REASON WHY DENNIS Espino remains the heart, soul and acknowledged leader of Sta. Lucia Realty despite the influx of talented newcomers to the team.

It's not just the points or rebounds the beefy center-forward gives to the Realtors' cause, nor the additional toughness he brings when he's on the court.

"It's his attitude," SLR coach Alfrancis Chua says of his 32-year-old team skipper. "He's a winner and he wants his teammates to adopt the same mind-set."

This observation came to the fore during the week that was in the Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup, when Espino refused to just lurk in the shadows of highly touted tyro Kelly Williams, sophomore Alex Cabagnot or third-year pros Cesar Catli and Nelbert Omolon.

Espino shone–and more–in the week that was, propping the Realtors to two wins and into an unfamiliar, lofty place they have not occupied since a highly cherished year.

Main reason why the proud son of Angeles City was unanimously voted as Player of the Week by the PBA Press Corps for the period Oct. 9-15.

In a 98-95 win over San Miguel Beer last Wednesday, Espino had 10 points and 13 rebounds for his first double-double of the young season. He also had three assists and two blocks, but his most noteworthy input were the two free throws he sank in the last six seconds that helped ice the game after the Beermen had come within 96-95.

Espino then posted a 22-point, five-assist effort in their 98-92 win over Alaska last Saturday.

LORENA Ochoa: Beery victory. REUTERS

Hot-putting Lorena topples Annika

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—LORENA Ochoa took a major step to claiming LPGA Player of the Year and season prize money honors by out-dueling Annika Sorenstam in Sunday's final round to win the Samsung World Championship.

The 24-year-old Mexican star sizzled with the putter as she fired five birdies and an eagle in a final-round seven-under par 65 to finish 72 holes on 16-under par 272 and beat the Swedish world number one by two strokes.

"I had a really good day today, it was amazing," Ochoa said. "I knew I needed to start good, like I said yesterday. And sometimes things just go your way... It was probably the best round of my professional career."

LPGA season money leader Ochoa won her tour-best fifth title of the year but it was only the second victory that came with Sorenstam in the field.

Not only was Sorenstam among the elite 20 women at this $875,000 event but she was paired alongside Ochoa in the final group and for the third time in four days.

"I knew Annika would show up. I played with all my heart and I feel happy," Ochoa said.

Ochoa handled the pressure and captured one of her greatest triumphs to deny Sorenstam's bid to become the first player to win any LPGA event six times. The Swedish star won here in 1995, 1996, 2002 and the past two years.

Sorenstam, who celebrated her 36th birthday last Monday, still seeks her 70th career LPGA crown in pursuit of Kathy Whitworth's all-time record of 88.

Sorenstam had won 12 of the prior 13 events in which she led entering the final round, but Ochoa's comeback continued a season of struggles for Sorenstam, who this year has won only one of eight title defenses.

Ochoa, who began the day three strokes behind Sorenstam, sank a six-foot birdie at the 11th hole to reach 15-under and claim a one-stroke lead, her first outright advantage since the 15th hole of Thursday's opening round.

Both leaders managed tension-packed pars over the next three holes before Ochoa dropped a 20-foot birdie putt at the par-5 15th and Sorenstam lipped out a 10-foot par putt to fall three strokes behind Ochoa with three holes to play.

Sweden's Sophie Gustafson was third on 277. *AFP*

Mets trample Cardinals, tie NL finals

ST. LOUIS—CARLOS DELGADO WHACKED A THREE-RUN homer and Carlos Beltran added a pair of home runs to key the New York Mets to a 12-5 win over the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday, tying the National League Championship Series at 2-2.

Delgado, batting .400 with nine RBI in the series, lined an opposite-field homer into the left field bullpen with two runners on in the fifth inning to give the Mets a 5-2 lead.

One inning later, Delgado knocked in two runs with a bases-loaded, ground-rule double to push the Mets' lead to 7-3 and the rout was on.

Before the sixth inning was over, the lead was stretched to 11-3 after a Shawn Green RBI single and a three-run double by Jose Valentin. The Mets scored six runs in the inning before the Cards got anyone out.

New York had 14 hits and four homers to erase the bitter taste of Saturday's 5-0 whitewash by St. Louis that gave the Cardinals a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"I played 12 and a half years and never sniffed the playoffs," Delgado, who played previously with Toronto and Florida, told reporters.

"This is what every athlete wants to be in, the playoffs with an opportunity to win.

"I'm enjoying these playoffs, it's a blast, but I guess it's going to be that much sweeter when you win it."

Beltran had three hits and scored four runs to go with his two homers, raising his batting average in the series to .333.

Heading into the Cards series, Beltran was a lifetime .400 hitter in the postseason.

"It's no secret, he's one of the best hitters in the game," Mets manager Willie Randolph said. "He's done it before, he's been on this stage and he seems to rise to the occasion when the big games come around.

"You make a mistake with him, he'll make you pay for it. I love it. That's what big players do."

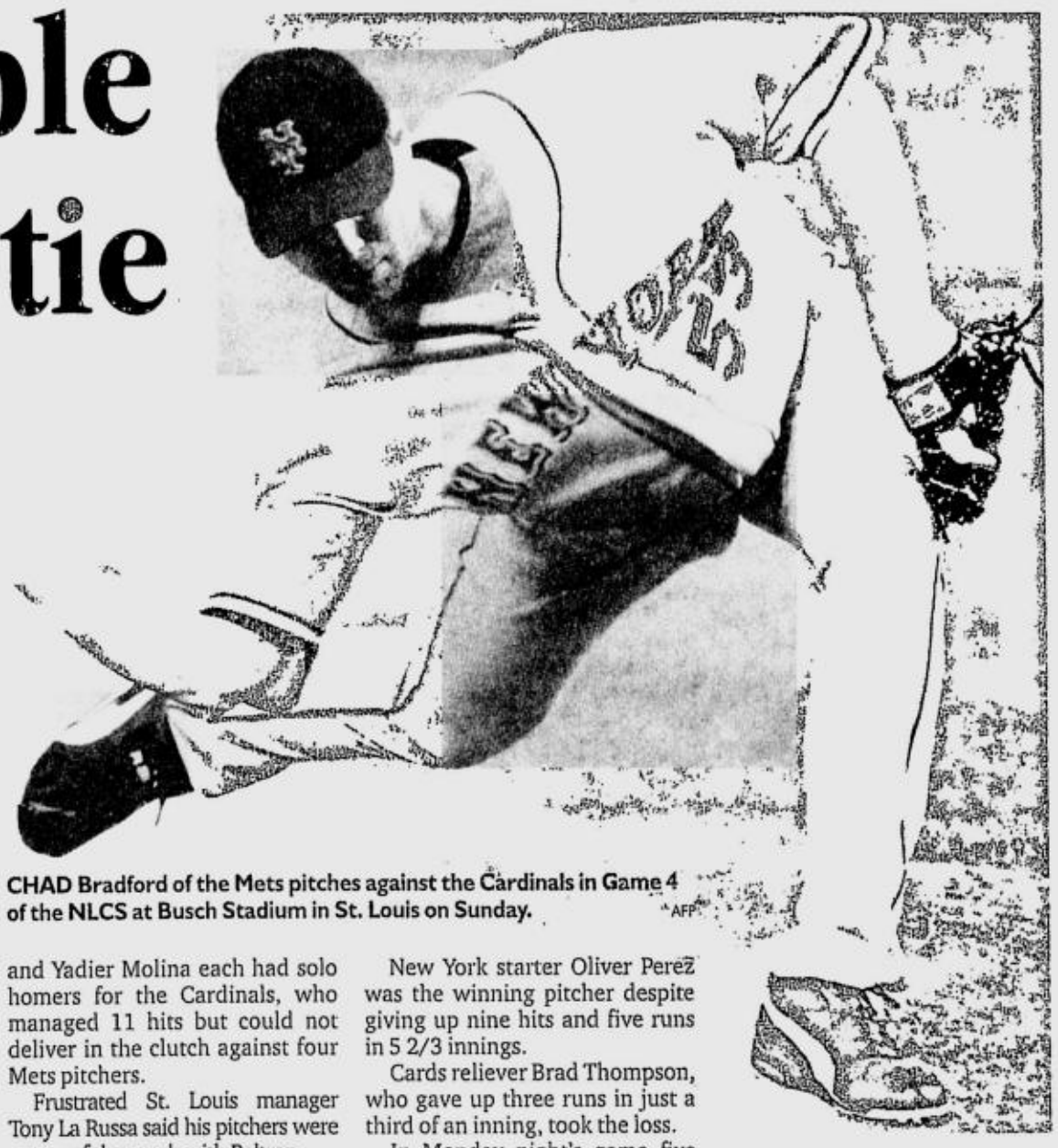
The American League champion Detroit Tigers will face the winner of the NLCS in the World Series beginning Saturday at Comerica Park in Detroit.

David Eckstein, Jim Edmonds and Yadier Molina each had solo homers for the Cardinals, who managed 11 hits but could not deliver in the clutch against four Mets pitchers.

Frustrated St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said his pitchers were not careful enough with Beltran.

"He's a dangerous guy," he told reporters. "You throw the ball down the middle to our guys, we're going to have the same kind of success.

"We've made mistakes. He's a very good hitter and he takes advantage."



CHAD Bradford of the Mets pitches against the Cardinals in Game 4 of the NLCS at Busch Stadium in St. Louis on Sunday. AFP

New York starter Oliver Perez was the winning pitcher despite giving up nine hits and five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Cards reliever Brad Thompson, who gave up three runs in just a third of an inning, took the loss.

In Monday night's game five match-up at Busch Stadium, 40-year-old southpaw Tom Glavine (15-7, 3.82 ERA) will start for the Mets, opposing Cards right-hander Jeff Weaver (8-14, 5.76).

Glavine pitched seven innings of four-hit shutout ball to get the win in the Mets' 2-0 triumph in the series opener.

Weaver pitched well during his 5 2/3 innings of work in the same game but gave up both runs on a 430-foot Beltran homer and was tagged with the loss. *Reuters*

Malaysian archers dip fingers on icy buckets

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIAN archers are relying on icy fingers in their bid for medals at the Doha Asian Games.

National coach Lee Jae-hyung has ordered his archers to dip their hands in buckets of ice so they get accustomed to expected cold temperatures in Qatar's Al Wusayl Complex, about 20km north of Doha.

"It will be cold and windy in Doha during the Games, but we are not able to simulate the conditions here," the Korean was quoted as saying by national news agency Bernama.

"As such, the next best thing we can do is get the athletes to face conditions that will be somewhat similar.

"I want them to experience what it will be like in chilly conditions. They might experience numbness in their hands because of the cold."

The average temperature at the complex during December is 15 degrees Celsius, according to the Asian Games official website, compared to 24 degrees in Doha. *Reuters*

Sailing not allowed in Qatar yet

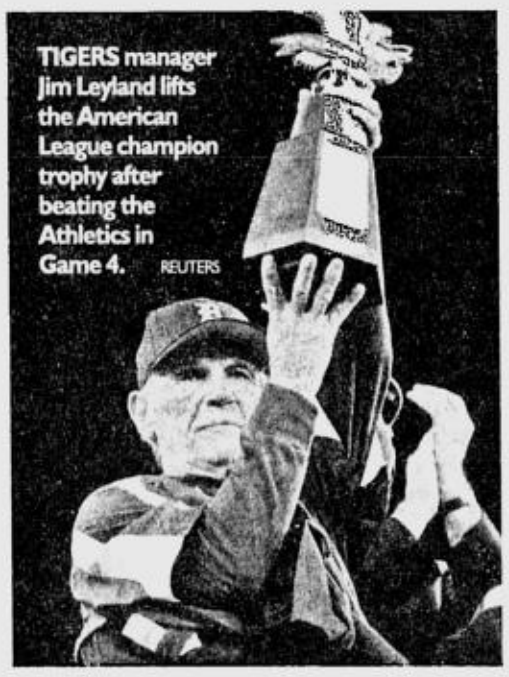
SINGAPORE—YACHTSMEN LOOking to gain a little local knowledge of the waters around Doha ahead of December's Asian Games have been told to wait until they begin.

There would be no sailing at any of the official venues until two days before the Dec. 1-15 event, Games officials have ruled.

Malaysia's squad had hoped to get in some practice at the Doha Sailing and Rowing Club by arriving early, but were given a firm rebuttal.

"The venue is off-limits to all teams so we will have to launch our boats from another venue," team manager Lawrence Yeow said on the Games official Web site.

A regional regatta in Kuwait a fortnight before the Games will provide valuable practice on the waters of the Gulf. *Reuters*



TIGERS manager Jim Leyland lifts the American League champion trophy after beating the Athletics in Game 4. REUTERS

Tigers enjoy before World Series

DETROIT—IT WAS PAST MIDNIGHT when Curtis Granderson, his dad and several family members finished dinner at a popular Greektown restaurant and headed out to a celebration in full swing.

"Sweet," the Detroit Tigers' leadoff man said.

Horns honking and brooms poking through moon roofs, downtown was alive into early Sunday. Spotlights swirled in the sky, people on the street slapped high-fives with strangers.

When the sun rose above Woodward Avenue across the street from Comerica Park, it lit up the State Theater's marquee "Let's Party Like It's 1984" in what might become the Motor City's new catch phrase.

Going to the World Series will make a city go a little crazy. Especially one that's been starved for a winner for 22 years.

"Nobody could have expected this. It's unreal," said Tigers Hall of Famer Al Kaline, now working in the club's front office.

The Tigers continued their remarkable journey from farce to force by sweeping Oakland in the AL championship series, beating the Athletics 6-3 Saturday when Magglio Ordoñez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning.

Ordoñez raised one arm, then both after connecting for his second home run in Game 4. From all corners of the stadium and beyond, Tigers fans cheered a pennant that seemed impossible back in spring training.

While the party was in progress on the field, Ordoñez wandered around asking, "Where's my family? Where's my family?"

At the same time, the stadium announcer neatly let everyone know the date of the Tigers' next home game: next Saturday, for the World Series opener against either the St. Louis Cardinals or New York Mets.

The losingest team in baseball the past 13 seasons, the club that suffered through 119 defeats only three years ago, will make its first Series appearance since 1984.

Manager Jim Leyland and these Tigers will go in with a seven-game postseason winning streak—suddenly they're looking a lot like the 2004 Boston Red Sox and 2005 Chicago White Sox, teams that got on a roll in October and stampeded to the championship.

And with a week to rest up, the Tigers figure to be in good shape. *AP*

Will Fiba side with Lina?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PHILIPPINES WAS SUSPENDED LAST year by the international basketball federation (Fiba), which said it could not accept the decision of the Philippine Olympic Committee to expel the Basketball Association of the Philippines, a longtime Fiba member, in favor of another group.

In suspending the country, Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann said the POC should have given new BAP president Joey Lina more time to effect changes in the beleaguered association, stressing that Lina took over from an ailing Tiny Literal only a few months back.

Following the provision of the Olympic Charter, the BAP is autonomous. Even the International Olympic Committee does not interfere in Fiba affairs. So why did the POC expel the BAP?

The POC, stressed sports critiques, could have asked for a change in BAP leadership, but not to expel the whole organization.

POC president and former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco had earlier asked local cage leaders to "focus more on new ideas and reforms that would redeem the country from the embarrassing output of poor leadership."

He even led the campaign to lift the ban on the Philippines and seek Fiba recognition for another organization to replace the BAP, including the newly formed Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas headed by business tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan.

However, the move to unite the troubled cage community went for naught after Lina abruptly resigned as BAP president following the POC's reported objection to his (Lina's) nomination as president of SBP.

Lina protested, saying, "The BAP objects to this POC's undue interference in SBP's decision to choose its officers, but since the lifting of the Fiba suspension is our concern, then we subordinate our BAP and SBP prerogative to comply with POC's desire."

Lina was succeeded by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who was elected by acclamation. On the other hand, the SBP congress, set for late this month, would have to be moved as a result of Lina's sudden resignation.

***

OVERVIEW OF RP IN ASIAD: World War II did significant damage to Philippine sports, setting back the country's athletic program. Once the region's sporting power, the Philippines fell on hard times after the war. When Asia held its first Asian Games in 1951 in New Delhi, the Philippines won only five gold medals.

In the second edition of the Asiad hosted by Manila in 1954, the Filipinos registered their best performance ever by bagging 44 medals, 14 of which were gold medals. In 1958 in Tokyo, the Philippines copped 48 medals, nine of them gold. However, the Filipinos' gold-medal harvest dropped to seven in Jakarta in 1962, the year the Philippines won the basketball gold for the last time. (Incidentally, the Philippines is not competing in the basketball competitions of this year's Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.—MRI).

By the 1966 Asiad in Bangkok, the Philippines was no longer a feared competitor, winning only two gold medals. And, in 1970, also at the games held in Bangkok, the Filipinos won a lone gold, courtesy of boxing's Ricardo Fortaleza of the fabulous Fortaleza brothers.

Four years later in Tehran, the Filipinos were shut out from the Asiad gold medal race for the first time in 23 years. But in 1978, the Philippines regained some lost prestige by winning four golds (one in swimming, through Ral Rosario and three in bowling, courtesy of Olivia "Bong" Coo).

Track and field had not won a gold since 1966, but the legendary Lydia de Vega, product of Project: Gintong Alay, ended the long drought by capturing the 100-meter gold in New Delhi in 1982. De Vega's gold medal was one of two won by the Philippines, with the other coming from swimmer Billy Wilson.

The Philippines won four golds in 1986 in Seoul; a lone gold in Beijing in 1990; three golds in Hiroshima in 1994; one gold in 1998 in Bangkok and three in 2002 in Busan. In each of the past Asian Games over the last five decades, the Philippines garnered a total of 56 gold medals. It has never won the overall championship of the Asian Games and, just where it is headed, is hard to tell.

Thorpe has potential to better Athens haul

SYDNEY—IAN THORPE HAS THE potential to do even better at the Beijing Olympics than his five-medal haul at the 2004 Athens games, the Australian swimming superstar's new stroke coach said in an interview published Monday.

Thorpe is Australia's most decorated Olympian, with nine Olympic medals and 13 world championship medals, 11 of them gold, but has been hit this year by injury and illness.

American-born Milt Nelms was Thorpe's constant companion during his recent three-month Los Angeles training sojourn, having been called in to assist by Thorpe and his Sydney-based coach Tracey Menzies.

Nelms predicts the best of the five-time Olympic gold medalist, who turned 24 last Friday, is still to come.

"When somebody has his abilities and his will, you can't limit your expectations," Nelms told The Australian newspaper. "From my point of view, he's more athletic now, so therefore he has more potential.

"Time is not on his side but his abilities, his intelligence and his willpower are on his side.

IAN THORPE

"It depends on the quality of each of those days and months (between now and the Beijing games).

While Menzies continues to prepare Thorpe for his individual events, the 100m and 200m freestyle, for December's trials ahead of next year's world championships in Melbourne, Nelms has been tinkering with Thorpe's stroke and mental approach.

Thorpe's natural attributes include a powerful kick, a long reach and strong pull with both arms, so he and Nelms have discussed how to make all the parts of his stroke more efficient. *AFP*

SPORTS

Army XI tops Ang Liga

Brilliantes hammers home winning goal to foil PAF

STRIKER LUIS BRILLIANTES BLASTED HOME the winning goal 16th minute into extra time as Army nipped arch rival Air Force, 3-2, Saturday night and lifted the PFF-Ang Liga cup at the Marikina Sports park in Marikina City.

Brilliantes, who was later adjudged tournament most valuable player and best striker, took a nifty pass from Ali Borromeo to break a 2-2 tie in regulation play.

Army's victory snapped the three-year domination by collegiate teams in the elite tournament and restored the reputation of powerhouse teams from the Armed Forces.

San Beda, mentored by national coach Aris Caslib, ruled the 2003 and 2004 editions and College of Saint Benilde prevailed last year.

But the Army booters paid for a defensive lapse very early in the match to trail the Airmen. Striker Ian Araneta, left unmarked, stroked his shot clear of Army goalkeeper Ed Sacapaño to give the Airmen a 1-0 in the ninth minute.

Borromeo pulled the Armymen abreast 10 minutes after the break with an unstoppable header before the 6-foot striker scored on another "cabezada" off Air Force keeper Joeme Tolosa four minutes later as Army took a 2-1 lead.

Another blunder by Army's defense in the 68th minute gave Airman Yanti Barsales the easiest of goals to end scoring after 90 minutes.

"It was a hard-fought game with both teams choosing to run each other down," said Borromeo after the match.

Among those in the gallery during the championship match were Caslib and the candidates of the Philippine team, including Fil-Briton Matthew Hartmann, a member of the reserve squad of Portsmouth in the English Premiership, as well as PFF head Johnny Romualdez and football commissioner Pabs Araneta.

HARD FOUGHT: Close call for Air Force in this bit of championship action

PAL INTERCLUB IN CAGAYAN

The Philippine Airlines Interclub, the country's largest golf event, holds its 60th championships in Cagayan de Oro from Feb. 16 to 24 next year. The "Diamond Edition" of the tournament, widely acknowledged as the national clubs championship, has drawn nearly 150 teams, including more than 60 squads from overseas. Joining hands to formally launch the 60th PAL Interclub during the First Team Captains' Meeting recently are (from left) Clifford Celdran, general manager of Pueblo de Oro Golf & Country Club; Miguel Comique, golf chair of Del Monte Golf Club; Domingo Duerme, Interclub chair; Jess Garcia, Interclub vice-chair; Bob Salazar, Interclub co-chair; and Ruben Pecson, senior vice president of Air Philippines, a major sponsor of the tournament.

Ateneo, La Salle keep each other guessing for match play

THE BLUE EAGLES AND THE GREEN Archers are keeping their cards close to their chest four days ahead of the third La Salle-Ateneo Match Play golf championship at the Sherwood Golf and Country Club in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Ateneo non-playing captain Teboy Javier said they hope to complete their lineup by Tuesday, the last team practice at the Jack Nicklaus-designed course.

"Some of our players are from the provinces, they have until Tuesday to make known their intentions," said La Salle's Raffy Garcia, who has so far named 10 of the 18 players vying in the three-day Ryder Cup-style competition which kicks off Friday, Oct. 20.

Two of Ateneo's top guns—lawyer Jovi Neri and Louie Dacudao—have yet to confirm their participation. Neri is based in Cebu while Dacudao lives in Davao.

Already named to Ateneo's team are seniors Iggy Clavecilla and Manoling Chan, lady players Katrina Gonzalez and Lovelyn Guioguio, Jose Mari Hechanova, Jingy Tuason, Junjun Plana, Anthony Fernando, Jeric Hechanova and Marcel Puyat.

Except for Guioguio and Chan, all are carryovers from last year's squad which lost, 19-23, despite dominating the last day's singles competitions.

Javier said his current team is better than last year's, adding that they are confident of winning this year.

"Our players have become better since our defeat last year," said Javier. "They have improved a lot."

The Ateneo skipper said he's expecting a better performance from 13-year-old Puyat, the youngest in the team and a member of the national pool.

"Marcel didn't play well last year because it was his first time," said Javier.

Unlike in Ryder Cup from which the event is patterned after, both teams are not required to divulge their lineups until the eve of the match.

"Tell La Salle to release its complete roster and I will submit ours," said Javier.

La Salle has so far named eight players, namely, seniors Francis Gaston and Tommy Manotoc, playing co-captain Raffy Garcia, Miko Alejandro, JP Reyes, King Stehmeier, Louie Garcia and newcomer William Hong.

Four players, who played key roles in La Salle's title romp last year, won't be around this time.

Artemio Murakami has turned pro, JR Tanpinco and Terrence Macatangay are in the United States and Justin Tambunting is unavailable.

Alejandro, who won all his five matches last year, is expected to lead La Salle's title-retention bid.

The first two days are reserved for foursome and four-ball matches. All 18 players go head-to-head in the final day.

The annual event is organized by Club Leisure Management Corp.

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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

RP lags neighbors in luring capital

Invest flows to Asean at record high, says UN body

By Daxim L. Lucas

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS (FDI) INTO Asean nations reached a new high last year as strong regional economies drew in more capital, but the Philippines continues to lag its neighbors in terms of attractiveness for long-term fund, according to a United Nations agency.

All told, Southeast Asia received $37.1 billion worth of FDI in 2005, of which only $1.1 billion or 2.9 percent was directed at the Philippines, the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (Unctad) said in its annual World Investment Report released yesterday.

Nonetheless, the country's meager performance compared to its Asean neighbors still represents an almost twofold jump in the value of long-term capital investors from the previous year, and is the highest amount of FDI inflows seen by the government since the $1.5 billion recorded in 2002 and the $1.2 billion annual average during the 1990s.

"With continued high economic growth, the region has become more attractive to market-seeking FDI," the UN agency said in a statement. "Furthermore, it has become a hot spot for transnational corporation investments in financial services and high technology industries."

A ranking official of the Department of Trade and Industry was quick to explain the country's performance last year, saying members of the foreign business community are often put off, rightly or wrongly, by the negative perception carried by the local media.

At the same time, Trade Undersecretary Elmer Hernandez said that high-profile fiascos involving large investments like the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project were the exceptions to the rule.

"Except for the Piatco (Philippine International Air Terminals Co.) example, we are very good in respecting contracts [with foreign investors]," he said during

RP LAGS/ B4

BOI, Peza investments up 30.8%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS REGISTERED WITH the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority went up 30.8 percent to P200.44 billion in the nine months to September despite concerns about the waning business environment in the country.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the BOI accounted for 71 percent of the total or P142.3 billion, which was 26 percent higher from a year ago.

Peza-listed projects amounted to P58.1 billion, or 45-percent higher than the amount of investments approved from January to September in 2005.

Inflow from local investors reached P124.9 billion, or three-fifths of the total, growing 32 percent over the same period in 2005.

Investments from abroad grew 28.6 percent to P75.6 billion, with the Americans contributing P34.4 billion.

The Japanese committed to bring in P16.4 billion; the Dutch, P7 billion; and Singaporeans, P6.1 billion.

During the period, the biggest projects listed with the BOI was GNPower Ltd.'s P43.9-billion coal-fired power plant; Smart Communications'

BOI/ B4

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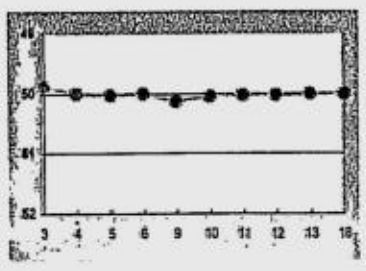

OCTOBER

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¥ 119.36 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 16, 2006

GOLD: $576.00-576.50

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks hit 5-month high

SHARE PRICES closed 1.05-percent higher at a five-month peak yesterday as investors bought into companies seen to have boosted profits for the three months to September, dealers said.

They said the performance was also in line with solid regional gains after Wall Street ended last week with another record close.

The composite index closed up 26.95 points at 2,584.20, near the day's high of 2,588.08 and off a low of 2,554.07.

It was the index's highest finish since May 8 when it closed at 2,589.17.

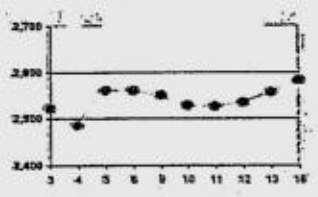
The all-share index rose 12.26 points to 1,583.67.

Gainers led losers 57 to 26 with 62 stocks unchanged. Turnover totaled

STOCKS/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

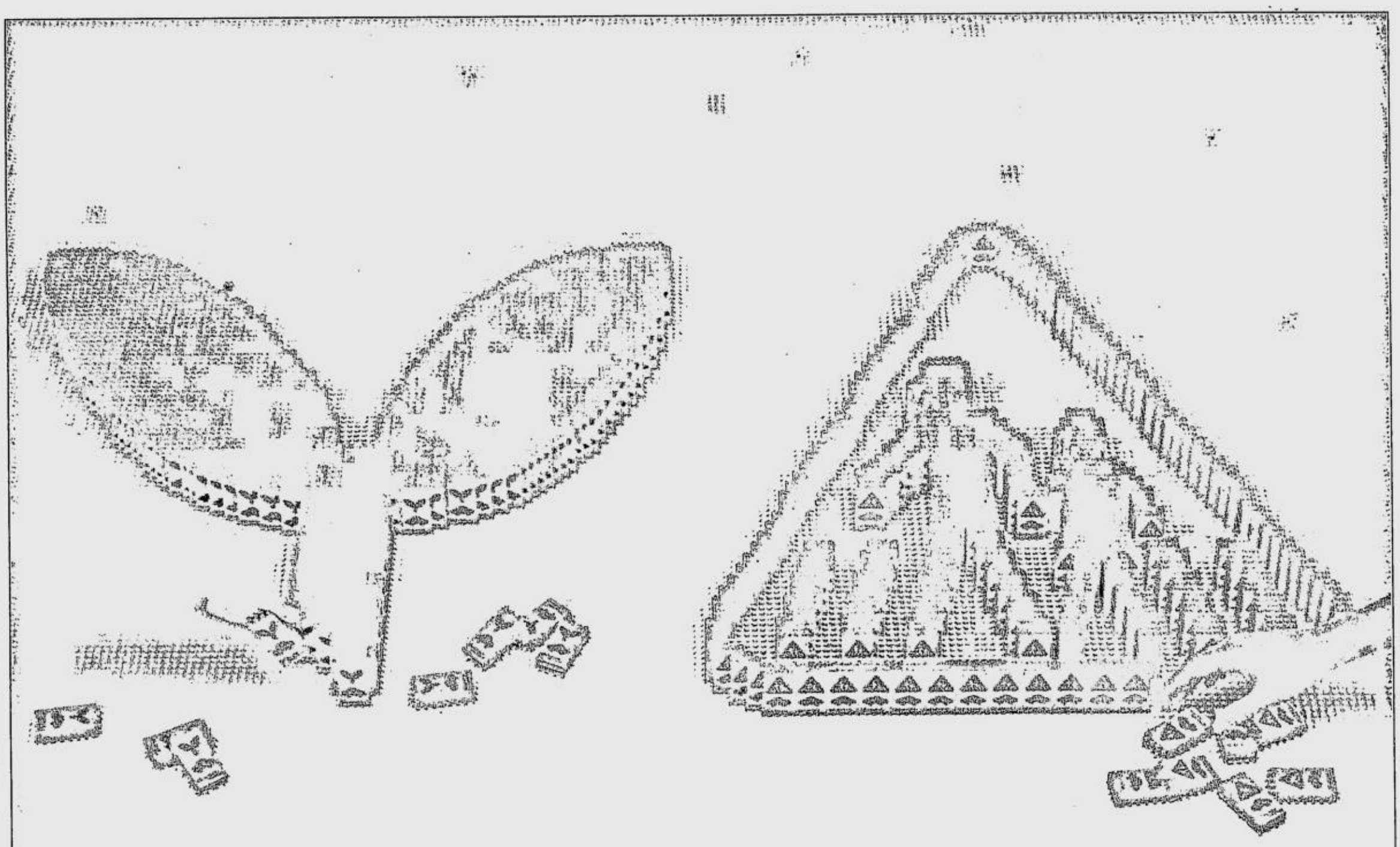
OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B4)

IN THIS ISSUE

US trade gap hits record $70 billion /B4



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RP seen to rate poorly in UN-ADB assessment

Little or no progress seen in key development areas

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS AMONG EIGHT developing countries falling behind the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, and scoring poorly on the latest progress and status indices, based on a joint UN-Asian Development Bank assessment.

The other countries that have likewise become of "greatest concern" to multilateral institutions are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, according to the report released yesterday.

The UN system, through the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN Escap) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) tracks progress towards achieving the development goals relating to poverty, nutrition, education, gender equality, infant mortality, maternal health, prevention of HIV and other diseases, water access, sanitation and environmental protection.

The report said that the Philippines has shown no progress in five MDG areas: Reducing the number of underweight children, improving the number of children reaching Grade 5, raising forest cover, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and improving water access in urban areas.

Little progress was seen in two areas: Rural water access and rural sanitation.

On a positive note, the Philippines is said to be on track to meet the 2015 goal of reducing by half the size of the population living on less than $1 a day, increasing primary enrolment, reducing HIV prevalence and improving urban sanitation.

The country was cited for having met the targets ahead of the 2015 reckoning in the following areas: Increasing primary education completion rate, raising the ratio of girls in primary, secondary and tertiary school, reducing infant mortality, increasing the ratio of areas protected to maintain biological diversity and reducing consumption of ozone-depleting CFC products.

The countries are categorized in four groups: Those moving ahead and making good progress, those that are losing momentum and need progress to meet targets, those that are catching up or making progress but still below the Asia-Pacific average, and those that are falling way behind.

The Philippines is currently in the fourth grouping.

In its assessment, the National Economic Development Authority said that the country would need to address about P380 billion in funding shortfall to boost primary education and basic health services from 2007 to 2015, the two MDG areas where the Philippines rated most poorly.

"We need to exert our efforts to meet the targets for nutrition, maternal health, participation and cohort survival rates in primary education, and access to reproductive health services," said Margarita Songco, NEDA deputy director-general.

The government assigned a medium to low probability that the country would increase elementary participation rate and reduce elementary school survival rate in line with the MDG goal of ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

For 2007 alone, the funding gap for basic education was estimated at P32 billion while the shortfall for basic health-related services was placed at P3.4 billion.

Songco said funding was a crucial element in achieving the MDGs. The country's total resource gap to meet the MDG was estimated at a high oF P91.9 billion for 2007, and about P395 billion from 2007 to 2010.

"The Philippines can't afford to be complacent and act as if it were business as usual," Songco said. "While it can't be denied that the policy thrusts in the MTPDP (Medium Term Philippine Development Plan) are supportive of the MDG, it is not likely that the goals of the MDG will be achieved unless more funds are sourced outside of the national government and public sector."

Q3 rice output seen to increase by 14.1%

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S PALAY OUTPUT IN the third quarter is expected to have increased by 14.11 percent, exceeding the 2.67-million metric ton (MMT) harvest registered in the same period last year, according to an estimate made by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Despite the increase in palay production for the third quarter, it remains to be seen if the full-year target yield of 15.4 million MT of rice could be attained following the devastation of Typhoon "Milenyo," which affected some 1.7 percent, or 15,000 hectares, of rice farms in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions.

In a memorandum, BAS Director Romeo C. Recide told the agriculture officials that the damage caused by the recent typhoon in Luzon and Visayas would be felt in the fourth quarter of this year.

Minda C. Mangabat, chief of the Crops Statistics Division at the BAS, said firmer estimates as to the impact of the typhoon on palay production would be released next month.

In his memorandum to the DA, Recide noted that palay production for July to September is expected to reach 3.046 MMT, slightly higher than the earlier forecast of 3.040 MMT.

For corn, the BAS estimated that the output for July to September would decline slightly to 2.176 MMT due to a series of typhoons that had hit key corn-producing areas.

The BAS noted that harvest area for July to September is expected to drop by around 11,000 ha as a result of floodings in Isabela and some northern and central Luzon provinces.

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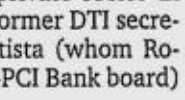

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO WONDER what our banks are doing with all that money, amounting to trillions of pesos—something you cannot possibly count physically.

Inevitably you must conclude that, nowadays, despite all that money, it is more difficult to borrow money from banks than to grow hair on solid rock.

Really, banks are awash with cash, and the money is mainly our lifetime savings. That's why the banks have to be careful in using it.

Now, according to the bankers, good business ventures are hard to come by, particularly in manufacturing which, in the past, was the sector that used tons of cash.

And so the banks put the money in so-called government securities. These are the papers representing the debts of the government, the IOUs, which are used for projects.

In other words, it is still the government that decides for the banks where our very own savings, the public's money, should actually go.

With the poor investment record of our government, mainly due to widespread graft and corruption, it is not a comforting thought.

* * *

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, or the BSP, has put up a P500-million trust fund for court cases against members of the Monetary Board.

Over at the private Philippine National Bank, or PNB, they now have a P150-million trust fund, deposited with a foreign bank, for exactly the same purpose.

The fund serves as seed money for court cases that may be filed against the board members of BSP or PNB, in connection with board decisions and such—the so-called harassment cases, which are of a different variety and have nothing to do with kissing a trainee or something.

From what I hear, the court suit insurance will apply even long after the board members are no longer serving the Monetary Board or the PNB board.

It's probably a way to encourage board members to make tough decisions.

Court cases have become harassment tools, filed for the most flimsy of reasons, such as, somebody probably does not like the face of a board member.

In that sense, the trust funds are useful, perhaps even necessary.

But we also have this thing called "good governance" these days. Abroad, stockholders actually sue the board members of public companies that went awry.

And so will the BSP use public funds to help even the Monetary Board members who get sued due to, er, shall we say, "profitable" decisions?

* * *

Hot on the comeback trail, former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo seems to have bagged an image-enhancing position in this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Romulo, according to my sources in business, these days loves to use the title "Presidential Senior Advisor on International Competitiveness."

Those are the exact words that appeared in a recent executive order from Malacañang, EO 571, creating the so-called competitiveness council.

Its creation came with the package of reforms that the private sector and Gloriaetta's economic team presented to her during the recent competitiveness summit.

The council is supposed to monitor the reforms agreed on in the summit—such as, how well the LGUs are cutting red tape.

Under EO 571, to act as co-chair of the council (alongside the trade and industry secretary) is none other than the "senior advisor on international competitiveness." Wow! Verbatim!

Anyway, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila actually initiated the competitiveness summit, after he got instructions directly from Gloriaetta last May.

After almost five months of preparation, who should join Favila's core group but Bob Romulo, representing the private sector?

My sources say, thanks to the "barkada" system in public office, Romulo instantly and effortlessly became part of the core group, only about three weeks to go before the summit date, after all the hard work has been done.

Also representing the private sector in the core group were two former DTI secretaries, namely Cesar Bautista (whom Romulo put in the Equitable-PCI Bank board) and Rizalino Navarro.

A check with the Palace nevertheless may reveal that there is no official appointment for a "presidential senior advisor on international competitiveness." Does the position even exist?

It turns out that the executive order creating the council had many different versions. It was up to Gloriaetta (and all those hangers-on at the Palace) which draft to accept.

Whadayano ... The winner is the version that has a doubtful official designation.

I don't know if that's the idea of this cute administration to make this country more competitive. Somehow I can't help but think that we are starting this competitiveness business on the wrong foot.

* * *

According to a World Bank study on the Philippines entitled, "Doing Business Report 2006," it will take you 48 days to start a business here. It will take you that long to complete the 11 steps to meet the requirements, such as incorporation and LGU permits.

Yes, that much red tape!

Of course, the government agencies are denying such delays, when the core group of the competitiveness summit confronted them with the World Bank findings.

For instance, under the World Bank study, mere filing for SSS and Medicare will take a business start-up at least 11 days, but the SSS claims it takes only one day.

Also, a mere BIR authority to print invoices will take 14 days, said the World Bank report. The BIR says it takes only one day.

Do I take it that the World Bank is imagining things?

Viaduct now wears braces

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY CORPORATION (SLTC) has placed metal braces on the sides and horizontal beams of the Alabang viaduct to slow down deterioration of the bridge while rehabilitation work at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) are underway.

The sides and roadways of the viaduct are sagging in between its columns, making riding through the roadway uncomfortable for hundreds of thousands of commuters each day.

The SLEX, built in 1976, has a carrying capacity of 100,000 vehicles per day but the actual traffic often exceeds 130,000 vehicles.

Officials in charge of the rehabilitation told the INQUIRER that two lanes per direction will remain open until the viaduct works are completed.

To make this possible, an additional lane is being constructed at ground level. Work began on July 10 and will be completed next month.

Also as part of the preparatory works, utility connections such as telecommunication cables, power and water lines are being transferred farther from the viaduct to ensure continued services during construction period.

The SLTC said it has finalized negotiations for the relocation with utility owners.

Major work on the substructure is scheduled to start within the next two months and heavy equipment will likely be moved into the area even before the new lane is completed.

SLTC president Mark Dumol earlier said in a statement that keeping the Alabang viaduct open is one of the reasons why the rehabilitation project has a 33- to 36-month timetable.

"We can complete the project faster but our work phases are intentionally gradual to minimize traffic disturbance," Dumol said. "Still, as with any road construction, congestion should be expected. Even without any on-going construction, the SLEX is already heavily congested in several sections."

Meanwhile, the water control works at the flood-prone San Pedro section of the South Luzon Expressway will be expanded northward to Filinvest and southward to Calamba, according to the South Luzon Tollway Corporation.

Intense flooding during typhoons have made the San Pedro section impassable for three to seven hours on several occasions, disrupting trade and commercial activities.

The water control works include raising the SLEX area by 1.5 meters, the installation of box-shaped drains to take water from the road, and the construction of sand and gravel basins to soak water from flood-prone areas.

Dumol has said in a statement that the installation of the soak-away basin started July 1 and is expected to be completed by December.

An engineer who oversees the water control works told the INQUIRER that the installation is on track and will be expanded to cover the whole of TR2 from Filinvest to Calamba.

Excavations have prevented flooding in the low-lying San Pedro portion located between the Susana Heights and the Southwoods exits by serving as temporary catch basins during the Typhoon "Milenyo."

The rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway, including the installation of the water control system, is a project of the SLTC, a joint venture of the Philippine National Construction Corporation and MTD Manila Expressway, a unit of Malaysian infrastructure giant MTD Capital Bhd.

Malaysian representatives of the flood control project proponent, MTD Capital Bhd., have already observed inflows into the work site from both the north and south directions whenever it rains.

Meanwhile, homeowners in the surrounding areas expressed hope that no strong typhoon would hit the area before the flood control work is complete.

Long-time resident Nieves Gallo said that in previous years the amount of water dumped by typhoons would have resulted in waist-deep flood in that part of the highway, and neck-deep water on both sides of the road.

Gallo and her neighbors have been living in the area for over 30 years and have had to leave their homes whenever the water rises.

RP posts BOP surplus of $91M in September

Boost from OFW remittances, strong exports

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A balance-of-payments surplus of $91 million in September, bringing the nine-month surplus to $2.62 billion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported yesterday that the January-September BOP surplus was achieved following double-digit growth in overseas Filipino workers' remittances, narrowing trade deficit due to strong merchandise exports, sustained foreign direct investment inflows and higher investment income of the BSP.

The figure for the month of September, however, was smaller than the $426-million surplus in the same month last year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account, and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP while any that gives rise to a receipt like borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

In its mid-2006 Post-Program Monitoring on the Philippines, the International Monetary Fund said the country's vulnerability to external factors remained high, but was coming down.

"The strong performance of remittances and exports has helped to insulate the current account from surging oil prices. There has also been a pick-up this year in FDIs," the IMF said in its latest report.

The country's sustained BOP surplus reflected the rise in the BSP's gross international reserves to an all-time high of $21.56 billion in end-September as the appreciating peso allowed the agency to buy more dollars and offset outflows from foreign debt servicing.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights (unit of account of the International Monetary Fund) and foreign investments—is an indicator of a country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy like importation and debt servicing.

The foreign reserve build-up since the start of this year was supported by proceeds from the government's foreign borrowings, remittances from overseas Filipino workers and, to a certain extent, FDI and portfolio inflows.

The strengthening of the peso against the dollar in the last few months alongside the bullish regional currency market has also given the BSP the opportunity to further build up its reserves while smoothening excess market volatility.

The peso, which recently revisited the 49:$1 level for the first time in four years, has risen by more than 6 percent since the start of the year.

Meanwhile, the IMF said the Philippines was among the few emerging markets that had regained strong confidence among offshore investors made more discerning by the global market shakeout in May and June.

Bank lending grew 2.5% in August

LENDING BY PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL banks grew 2.5 percent in August to P1.6 trillion from a year ago, easing from the 4.3-percent expansion in July, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

On a month-on-month basis, commercial bank loans declined 0.9 percent compared to a 1.8-percent growth in the previous month.

The expansion in bank lending was driven mainly by loans to the financial institutions, real estate and business services sector (17.3 percent) and the community, social and personal services sector (6.3 percent).

Other sectors which also contributed to the growth in bank loans were mining and quarrying; electricity, gas and water, and agriculture.

However, the increase in lending to these sectors were partly offset by the declines in construction (13.8 percent); transportation, storage and communication (8.9 percent); manufacturing (8.3 percent), and wholesale and retail trade (2.6 percent).

"Commercial bank lending activity continues to be moderate, given the changing corporate financing structure in the country and the still significant level of non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks," the BSP said in its report yesterday.

But the BSP said it remained committed to the strengthening of the banking sector by helping banks reduce their stock of NPAs and improve overall asset quality.

"The BSP also continues to provide the appropriate macroeconomic conditions to encourage credit activity, including stable interest rates and support to legislative measures that promote adequate credit information," the BSP said.

Based on a recent BSP study, demand for bank loans remained sluggish partly because of the pullout of some multinational investors as well as the rise of less capital-intensive industries such as trading and business process outsourcing.

With the emergence of mainland China as a manufacturing powerhouse, many multinational companies have transferred operations due to cheaper labor and lower cost of doing business.

The industries that are recently expanding significantly, trading and BPOs, were also seen needing less capital than if an investor were to put up factories.

Another factor cited was the increasing consignment arrangement for exporters of electronic products.

Three other factors were cited to be contributing to the modest demand for loans: Excess capacity, highly liquid position of many enterprises, and tapping of domestic and foreign capital markets by some top corporations to obtain longer term funding for business.

The sluggish bank lending has, in turn, caused a decline in the Philippines' competitiveness.

In 2006, the country ranked 101th out of 175 countries in terms of ease in access to credit--slipping from 96th in the previous year, based on a World Bank group survey. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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Stocks

From page B1

1.37 billion shares valued at P2.24 billion.

"Market sentiment is generally bullish because of indications of stronger third-quarter results, positive economic data brought on by ongoing fiscal reforms and expectations that these will translate into an upgrade of the country's credit ratings soon," said Ron Rodrigo of Unicapital Securties.

The peso's strength also continued to support buying in equities, since this means foreign exchange gains for blue chip stocks like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), he said.

The peso has been trading around four-year highs at about 50 to the dollar, supported by strong remittances from Filipinos working abroad and the government's improving fiscal situation.

PLDT closed up P50 at P2,250.

PLDT officials last week said the company's third-quarter net profits were likely higher than what it made in the previous three months and even a year earlier, thanks to foreign exchange gains and operational efficiency.

The country's biggest telecommunications firm will announce its results for the three months to September on Nov. 7.

SM Investments, the most actively traded stock, edged up P2.50 to P262.50 after it reported that the central bank has approved in-principle its acquisition of additional shares in Equitable PCI Bank. *AFP*

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• Building the Entrepreneurial Organization
• Understanding Entrepreneurial Partnership
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US trade gap hits record $70 billion

CONGRESSMAN MARK FOLEY HAS BEEN accused of sending sexually explicit e-mails to teenage boys known as pages. He has apologized to President Bush and said he would turn over a new page.

My brother is going into hospital for a lobotomy. I was quite worried until the surgeon told me it was a no-brainer.

If you own a sewing machine, put a plant on top of it. Then you can claim depreciation for plant and machinery.

There are 160,000 troops in Iraq. In the last 22 months, 2,112 have been killed, equivalent to 60 firearms deaths per 100,000 soldiers. In Washington DC, the death rate among the population from firearms is 80 per 100,000. This means you are 33 percent more likely to be shot and killed in the capital. Conclusion: The United States should pull out of Washington immediately.

I rang a hotel to book for All Souls' Day. I asked the clerk how much they charged for a room. He said it depended on the size of the room and how many people. I said, "Do you take children? He replied, "No sir, only cash and credit cards."

My wife went to a beauty parlor. When she returned, she asked me how young she looked. I said, "Judging by your skin, 20, your hair, 18, and your figure, 25." She said, "Oh you are just flattering me." "Wait," I said, "I haven't added them up yet."

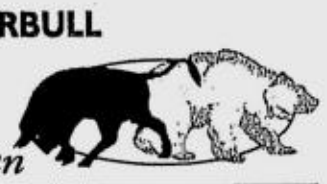
I ran into a friend last night so we went to a Persian restaurant. He is Indian so I asked him if he spoke Tagalog. He replied, "*Hindi.*"

***

Last week, the DOW moved to an all-time high of 11,960 so it is within spitting distance of 12,000. How does this square up with all the pessimists who are predicting a recession next year. It doesn't and I keep repeating that the US economy is going to slow down, maybe to 2 percent, but it is not going into recession.

The dividend season has begun and the results continue to show double-digit growth year on year, otherwise the DOW would not be rising every day. Next week, we will have the results from IBM, JP Morgan, Apple, Google, Coca-Cola and Caterpillar, a varied selection of major companies. Also reporting

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

are Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Yahoo, Intel and rival AMD.

On Tuesday, we will have the producer price index and on the following day the all-important consumer price index. This should indicate whether inflation is falling but I would, not be surprised if we had another rate increase by Christmas. Since nobody else thinks so, such a move would unhinge the markets.

A major concern is the trade deficit which hit a record $69.9 billion while China recorded its second highest trade surplus. Europe has already imposed tariffs on the import of shoes from China and Vietnam so something has to be done about the yuan.

Once the Fed starts cutting interest rates in the middle of next year, the dollar will weaken but the yuan will follow it down as it is pegged to the dollar and the situation will worsen If only the Chinese would adopt the crawling peg approach. This means that they will allow the currency to appreciate at say 0.5 percent a month. This is less problematical than a sudden 6 percent revaluation because it would take place gradually over a year.

North Korea finally carried out its threat to detonate a nuclear device. The United Nations voted unanimously to punish them and France surrendered. I don't think that sanctions will achieve anything so the United States will have to indulge in diplomacy whether they like it or not. Coffee Anan has been decaffeinated and replaced by Ban Ki-Moon from South Korea. I will follow his career with interest.

At home, everything is fine, the peso is 50 and remittances are pouring in at $1.1 billion a month, up 15.3 percent from year-ago. Even our exports are up 21.3 percent in August to $4.26 billion with electronics and garments leading the way. Yet our market has been trading sideways for the last three weeks. Hong Kong and India are at record levels and the entire Asian region has been strong. Even the IMF is taking us off its watch list.

Congress has approved a P1.16-trillion budget for 2007 and the biofuel bill has been passed by the Senate. Zubiri, who authored the House version, said 12 ethanol plants were expected to rise in various parts of the country once the bill becomes law. Five ethanol plants were already expected to rise in San Carlos City, Batangas, Pampanga, Northern Luzon and Bukidnon. Five other plants would be built in Negros and two in Cebu. The sugar and coconut industries will benefit.

Independent oil company Flying V will be opening its P10-million flagship Bio-Fuels Center at the Philippine Coconut Authority in the first half of November. It will be blended with 1 percent of coco methyl ester and vehicle emission tests will be carried out in conjunction with Chemrez Inc. Coco processing plants will be set up in Leyte (better Leyte than never.)

URC is launching a fizzy green tea called Teazz. It sells in three new flavors—Cola Lite, lemon and raspberry. It fizzes and is therefore recommended by fizziologists. It uses carbonated water and anti-accidents that protect you. It is claimed to help lower bad cholesterol and inhibits the formation of blood clots. I asked Gokongwei whether he was confident about green tea, which was effervescent, and he replied, "I wouldn't launch it, if I vasn't."

The market broke out at last and is now heading towards the 2,600 level. APXB touched P6.90 yesterday and this is also a breakout. It should go to P7.50 in time for the AGM on Nov. 27 and, hopefully, to P8 by the end of the year. The recent results from the Jessie vein were very encouraging. It is on the Crew Gold website under latest news.

A lot of shares have made new highs this year and it is getting very difficult to find anything good that has been left behind.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Creditors OK sale of Napocor power plant to First Gen Hydro

Buyer now has to pay 40 percent of offer for Pantabangan-Masiway

By Abigail L. Ho

NATIONAL POWER CORP.'S CREDITORS -- World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation-- have given their nod to the sale and transfer of the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower package to winning bidder First Gen Hydro Power Corp.

The three multilateral lenders sent separate letters to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) signifying their consent to the asset sale and transfer.

Before it can complete the sale of any of Napocor's power generation assets, PSALM needs to secure the consent of the power agency's three major creditors.

ADB, which sent its letter of consent on Sept. 20, was the first to give its nod to the transaction.

The World Bank followed two days later, with country director Joaquim von Amsberg commending the government for "pursuing the privatization of Napocor's generation and transmission assets."

The JBIC's consent, which was sent by international finance director Shin Oya, came in last Oct. 4.

With the creditors' consent already secured, PSALM president Nieves Osorio said First Gen Hydro would now have to remit its $51.6-million upfront payment, representing 40 percent of the company's $129-million bid.

The company yesterday posted a $2.58-million performance bond for the Pantabangan-Masiway facilities. Representing 2 percent of the firm's winning bid, the bond would ensure that the company would not renege on any of its obligations under the asset purchase agreement that it had entered into with PSALM.

Under the asset purchase agreement, First Gen Hydro needs to remit the 40-percent upfront payment to PSALM on or before the closing date, or when both parties have satisfied all the terms and conditions of the transaction. The balance is payable in 14 equal semi-annual installments with 12-percent interest compounded semi-annually.

The $2.58-million performance bond will be reduced every year by 2 percent of the aggregate amount of the deferred payments.

First Gen Hydro is likewise required to post a deferred payment security deposit equivalent to at least the next deferred payment in the form of cash, currently dated manager's check or an irrevocable standby letter of credit acceptable to PSALM.

"Getting the consent of the creditors to the sale of the Pantabangan-Masiway power facility less than a month after it was auctioned off on Sept. 8 is a positive signal that PSALM is on the right track in the pursuit of our mandate," Osorio said.

Upon the turnover of the Pantabangan-Masiway facilities to First Gen Hydro, the power generation portfolio of its parent firm First Gen Corp. will reach 1,839 MW, or almost 12 percent of the country's total installed capacity.

BSP bad loans exposure down

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has halved its non-performing loan (NPL) exposure—including advances to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and emergency loans to ailing banks—to 12 percent of its total loans and advances in 2005 from 24 percent a year ago.

Earlier this year, the BSP tightened its rules as a lender of last resort to both problematic banks and fellow banking regulator PDIC to further reduce its NPL level.

Official documents showed that the BSP's total outstanding loans and advances last year amounted to P116.54 billion, including securities purchased under agreements to resell. These represented 9 percent of the BSP's total assets.

Past due accounts amounted to P13.53 billion or 12 percent of the total. This was lower than the P31 billion posted in 2004, which was 24 percent of the total loans and advances extended by the BSP that year.

The documents also showed that 56 percent of past due accounts were covered by allowance for probable losses. Total probable loan losses booked for 2005 amounted to P977.13 million, net of recoveries.

The BSP's outstanding advances to PDIC went down from year-ago's P80.8 billion to P73.1 billion in 2005. The same documents showed that outstanding emergency loans granted by the BSP to ailing banks dropped to P5.4 billion last year from P5.9 billion a year ago.

Doris C. Dumlao

RP lags neighbors in luring capital

From page B1

the launch of the Unctad report.

Proof of the government's commitment to the sanctity of contracts with foreign investors was its decision to renegotiate expensive deals with foreign independent power producers sealed during the power crisis in the early 1990s, instead of just abrogating them unilaterally, Hernandez pointed out.

"None of these contracts were rescinded," he said. "That is why we're still paying for the high cost of power."

The country head of a World Bank unit backed up the trade official's observations, saying that the sanctity of contracts was not the top concern of foreign investors in the Philippines.

"Piatco is obviously a sore point, but overall the Philippines does well," International Finance Corp. country manager Vipul Bhagat said during the briefing.

Instead, he pointed out that foreign investors were more interested in seeing the correct "enforcement" of contracts as well as a higher degree of openness to international trade in the country.

According to the Unctad report, Singapore retained its position as the third-biggest recipient of FDI in Asia, after China and Hong Kong, with $20 billion worth of long-term capital coming onshore in 2005.

Indonesia—Asean's largest economy—also experienced its highest FDI growth rate on record last year with inflows rising by 177 percent to $5.3 billion.

"Large, cross-border mergers and acquisitions... accounted for the jump," Unctad said.

BOI, Peza investments up 30.8%

From page B2-1

P38-billion 3G cellular phone system as well as Globe Telecom's P5.5-billion project.

The biggest Peza-listed ventures were mostly related to electronics and semiconductors.

In September alone, combined approved investments grew 827.4 percent to P71.1 billion from P7.7 billion a year ago.

BOI-listed projects ballooned to P55 billion or 12,272 percent from P444.6 million in September last year while Peza-registered projects increased 126 percent to P16.3 billion.

The biggest projects granted incentives in September were Upland Banana Corp.'s P4.6-billion production of cavendish bananas; HSBC's 3-billion business process outsourcing venture; Lepanto Consolidated Mining's P3.27-billion copper project, and San Carlos Bioenergy's P2.25-billion ethanol facility.

"While investments do increase, the uptake has been pretty weak compared to what neighboring countries get," Hernandez said.

He said the government and the private sector, with the support of various international and business organizations, were working together to identify and address investment bottlenecks.

Some recent events held toward that goal included the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines' foreign direct investment workshop and a Philippine Competitiveness Summit.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 16, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40	40.5	39.5	40	884,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56.5	55.5	56.5	2,150,300
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	18,310
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	3,940,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65.5	66.5	65.5	66	24,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17,000
Security Bank Corp.	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	900
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	46	44	46	3,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.2	4.45	4,683,000
First Abacus Financial	0.46	0.53	0.46	0.53	60,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1580	1580	1580	1,480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	399,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	232	240	232	240	3,710
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1965	1965	1965	1965	260
Ivantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	2,520,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50.5	51	50.5	51	663,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51	50.5	51	387,000
Manila Electric Co. A	26	27.5	26	27	375,600
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	33	32.5	33	610,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	3,216,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.1	4,185,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1	1	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	13,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.5	69,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	821,900
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	10,000
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.12	1.02	1.1	2,570,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	29,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.43	0.36	0.39	3,220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65	66	124,400
San Miguel Corp. B	76	76.5	75.5	75.5	189,600
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19.25	19	19	358,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	26,650,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.32	2.42	2.32	2.38	3,624,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	305,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	3,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.92	2.06	1.92	2.04	524,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.5	4.5	943,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	110,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.68	0.7	0.67	0.67	59,760,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.145	0.16	0.145	0.155	13,050,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	492.5	495	490	492.5	583,900
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	70,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	85,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	7,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	338,000
APC Group Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.235	0.24	4,160,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	42,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	13,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	74,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	544,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.42	1.42	7,787,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	495,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.85	525,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.4	1.4	225,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.2	609,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	910,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	170,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.8	2	1.8	2	90,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.54	1.6	1.48	1.48	3,848,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	16,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.63	0.67	0.63	0.65	1,020,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	5,000,000
SM Investments Corp.	260	262.5	257.5	262.5	1,764,720
South China Resources Inc.	0.98	1	0.98	1	430,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.5	1.66	1.5	1.54	586,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.12	10,500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
ROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	13.75	14	9,740,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.08	1.1	12,518,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.28	153,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	1,430,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	874,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.44	1.6	1.44	1.48	508,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	25,360,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	245,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.055	0.05	0.055	13,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	3,760,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	750,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.79	0.88	0.79	0.87	9,140,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	12,481,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	243,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.39	0.28	0.39	34,850,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	380,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	8,855,600
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	2,360,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	108,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.6	7,484,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.75	85,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	230,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	11,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.48	1.54	13,822,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1105	1120	1100	1120	65,760
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.75	4.95	4.7	4.95	8,557,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2200	2255	2200	2250	110,150
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Ionics Inc.	2.02	2.06	2	2.02	1,429,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	1,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	223,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	138,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.85	3.9	3.85	3.9	200,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.5	19.75	683,200
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1	1	0.98	0.98	350,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,247,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2.1	2	2.1	5,165,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	220,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.46	3,220,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	830	830	830	830	790
iPeople Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	587,000
Paxys Inc.	12	12	12	12	213,600
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.8	4,562,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	2,675,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	355,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.9	8	7.9	8	545,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9	24,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	3,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	8,320,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	23,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	10,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	249,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	7,942,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19	19	18.75	19	88,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.42	250,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	270,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.0095	0.01	69,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	38,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	1	1	210,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1.02	1	1.02	220,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	54,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	13,100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.5	1,167,100

CURRENCIES

October 16, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.799105	1.000000	50.0030
Japan	Yen	0.006679	0.008358	0.4179
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483698	1.856700	92.8406
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102596	0.128389	6.4198
Switzerland	Franc	0.627882	0.785731	39.2889
Canada	Dollar	0.702572	0.879198	43.9625
Singapore	Dollar	0.503659	0.630279	31.5158
Australia	Dollar	0.599479	0.750188	37.5117
Bahrain	Dinar	2.119811	2.652731	132.6445
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213072	0.266638	13.3327
Brunei	Dollar	0.502077	0.628299	31.4168
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021332	0.026695	1.3348
UAE	Dirham	0.217668	0.272390	13.6203
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.251400	62.5738
Argentina	Peso	0.257776	0.322581	16.1300
Brazil	Real	0.372977	0.466744	23.3386
Denmark	Kroner	0.134136	0.167858	8.3934
India	Rupee	0.017625	0.022056	1.1029
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217089	0.271665	13.5841
Mexico	New Peso	0.073681	0.092204	4.6105
New Zealand	Dollar	0.524863	0.656814	32.8427
Norway	Kroner	0.118519	0.148315	7.4162
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013204	0.016523	0.8262
South Africa	Rand	0.106975	0.133869	6.6939
Korea	Won	0.000837	0.001047	0.0524
Sweden	Kroner	0.107852	0.134966	6.7487
Syria	Pound	0.015394	0.019264	0.9633
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024126	0.030191	1.5096
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000372	0.000466	0.0233

J.A. JONES INTERNATIONAL CO.
is in need of the following for their project at Port-au-Prince, Haiti

- **HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS**
- **HE MECHANICS**
- **TOWER CRANE OPERATORS**
- **FOREMAN** (CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, PLUMBING)
- **GENERAL FOREMAN** (FINISHER, DOORS & HARDWARES, FEBR WINDOWS, LOW VOLTAGE, STORM DRAIN, FORMWORK, BARRIERS, LANDSCAPE, SITE STRUCTURES, MECHANICAL, FUEL SYSTEM, PERIMETER WALL)
- **FIELD ENGINEERS** (CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL)
- **QC ENGINEERS** (CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL)
- **QA/QC INSPECTORS** (CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, BATCH PLANT)
- **ACCOUNTANTS**
- **SURVEYORS**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
- **WAREHOUSEMAN**
- **SAFETY INSPECTOR**

Minimum of five (5) years work experience in building construction and related field.

Qualified and interested applicants may apply personally with two (2) sets of bio-data, resumé of work experience with detailed employment history and job description, recent photo, employment certifications and other supporting documents at:

PARMAN INCORPORATED
Personnel Department
7F MGF Champaca Building
Amorsolo Street corner Pasay Road
Legaspi Village, Makati City

LIC. NO. POEA-090-LB-083106-R FOR MANPOWER POOLING **NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITER**

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery and installation of **One (1) Lot "CLASS A" Synthetic Rubber Surfacing (ABC: P22,109,360.00)** for the M.F. Perdices Memorial Coliseum Track and Oval, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax #: (035) 422-8895.

The **Pre-Bid Conference** is scheduled on **October 26, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City while the **submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **November 7, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer
(PDI–October 17 & 24, 2006)

BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MFG. CORP
#9 K. PORONG STREET, PUNTURIN, VALENZUELA CITY

URGENTLY NEEDED

One (1) Computer Programmer

- Strong development expertise in MS-SQL Server 2000 including Server reporting services and Microsoft Access Programming
- Must be independent, resourceful, results-oriented, a self motivated team player and ability to multi- task
- Highly analytical, highly creative, and has excellent interpersonal skills.
- Strong communication skills (English written and oral)
- Excellent technical solving problem skills

Interested applicants can call up 443-4321/ 443-4050 or 443-4070 for schedule of interview.

Email: **nfe_angeln@fashionexpress.com.hk**

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
Two (2) Years Contract for Messengerial/ Courier Services for the Period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008	P24,992,774.40	November 9, 2006 10:00 AM	November 22, 2006 1:00 PM	P12,500.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting October 17, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI-Oct. 17 & 24, 2006) BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat
Tels.: 064-200-3155/4050, 064-447-0327/0326; Fax: 064-200-3156

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the following projects funded under its reinvestment and the NEA subsidy funds:

1. Supply, Delivery and Replenishment of the following materials on consignment basis: i.) Brand New Distribution Transformers (3-, 5-, 7.5-, 10-, 15-, 25-, 37.5-, 50-kVA; all rated 7,620/240V conventional pole type double bushing); ii.) Concrete Poles (25', 30', 35', 40' at 250-, 350-, & 500-kgs.); Steel Poles (25', 30', 35, 40' at 280-, 310-, 330- & 400-kgs.) and Tanalized Wood Poles (25', 30', 35', 40' class 2, 3 & 4); iii.) Duplex Conductor #6 AWG; and iv.) kWh Meters (CL2, 30Amp max bottom connected, 2W 240V and; CL100 100Amp max socket type with socket, 2W 240V).
2. Supply of Labor and/or Materials for the Proposed Collection Office in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.
3. Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of One (1) Unit Brand New Three Phase SF6 Power Circuit Breaker, 69kV.
4. Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of One (1) Unit Brand New Three Phase Recloser, 15.5 kV.
5. Supply of Labor (including ROW Clearing) and/or Materials for the following Distribution Line Construction Projects: i.) Prk. KBL, Kapaya, Bagumbayan; ii.) Prk. Kaunlaran, Segasa, Esperanza; iii.) Prk. Maabi-ablhon, Daladap, Esperanza; iv.) Prk. Sumitalao, Katiku, Pres. Quirino; v.) 75th IB, Tual, Pres. Quirino; vi.) Prk. G-Melina, New Passi, Tacurong City, and; vii.) Gawak Kalinga Housing Project, Poblacion Datu Paglas.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Engineering Manager, Engr. Godofredo F. Sanchez, Jr.

Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting October 10, 2006 by an interested eligible Bidder upon submission of a written application to the BAC Chairman and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as follows:

1. One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) each for Bid Item Nos. 1, 4 and 5 above;
2. Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) for Bid Item #3 above;

Sealed envelope containing the technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes duly marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m., October 26, 2006 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of Bidders of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at the Board Room.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or cashier's check, in the amount equivalent to 2-1/2% of the amount of bid. This bid security shall be valid for at least 150 days starting from the date of bid opening.

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **GODOFREDO F. SANCHEZ**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) **DEMETRIO O. JEREZ**
General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 11 & 17, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that MCV INT'L. MARINE SERVICES, INC., with business address at 2nd floor R & S Perez Bldg., 46 D. Silang St., Batangas City is applying for the issuance with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). The following are the elected officers and appointed staffs of the Corporation:

Margarita C. Velasco	President
Charley M. Velasco	Vice-President
Vilma M. Velasco	Corporate Secretary
Ruel C. Claveria	Treasurer
Belinda O. Velasquez	Member
Susan V. Cueto	Auditor
Agnes V. Tingchuy	Secretary
Mharbelus Onassis A. Macaraig	Liaison Officer
Karen Panaligan	Office Clerk

(PDI – October 17, 2006)

More Classified Ads:
DOLE-NCR A12
LRA A18

OBITUARIES

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Mat thew 11:28

Judge Natividad Gonzales Adduru-Santillan

(UP Law Class '40/'41)

has peacefully joined her Creator and beloved husband, Col. Benjamin M. Santillan (†) on the 15th of October, 2006.

Her bereaved family, **Ben** and **Cris**, **Marlo** and **Cony**, **Osbi** and **Karina**, **Niel** and **Arlene**; her grandchildren, **Ponch**, **Christo**, **Mikey**, **Jerome**, **Jeremiah**, **Anne**, **Augustine**, **Julian**, **Sara**, **Mickey**, **AC**, and **Kay**, relatives and friends, request all to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mahinhin Street, U.P. Village, Quezon City (beside Claret School). Interment will be on Thursday, 19th of October 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

Daniel Fernandez Infante, Jr.

(November 25, 1930 - October 14, 2006)

Peacefully returned to the loving arms of his Heavenly Father on October 14, 2006.

He is survived by his loving wife, **Cosette**, children **Dan III** and **Paulette**, **Danielle Neua**, **Rene** and **Eda**, **Glenn** and **Raymund**, **Myra** and **Jude**, and **Michael**; grandchildren and sisters; brothers-in-law; nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at St. Therese Memorial Chapels, Molo, Iloilo City. Interment will be on October 19, 2006, at Christ the King Memorial Park following necrological services at 1:00 p.m. at Doane Baptist Church, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Building Fund of Daragan Baptist Church will be most appreciated.

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." – Psalm 23:1

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

NIEVES "Nieng" MANUEL PANGAN

Peacefully joined her Creator on the 15th day of October 2006 at the age of 91.

Her bereaved children and in-laws, **Tony** and **Pachot**, **Ditsy** and **Jojo**, **Gayjee** and **Joji**, **Juju** and **Edith**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the mortuary of Sta. Maria della Strada Parish along Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Evening masses will be concelebrated at 7pm on Monday and Tuesday. Funeral Mass will be held at 8am on Wednesday and interment will follow at the North Cemetery, La Loma, Quezon City.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Mathew 11:28

Celia Jessica L. Villarosa

Peacefully joined the Lord on October 15, 2006 at the age of 53.

She is survived by her husband **Leo**, daughter **Christine** and sister **Alice**.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

We, the MEDICAL MISSION Sisters invite you to join us in praying for the repose of

Sister Corazon (Teodora) de Jesus, MMS

who was born to eternal life on October 15, 2006.

Her ashes will be at the Medical Mission Sisters' Chapel – # 30 F. Collantes St., Loyola Heights, Q.C. Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, on October 17, 2006 after the funeral mass at 9:00 a.m.

(In lieu of flowers we will appreciate donations to our Healing Missions)

Remembered in Love
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
15TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

MAUREEN NAVARRO HULTMAN

TODAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006

MASSES WILL BE HELD AT SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, FORBES PARK, MAKATI.

6:15 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
12:15 p.m.
18:00

Justice will only be achieved when those, who are not injured by crime, feel as indignant as those who are. (Solomon 635-577 BC)

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for Sanyo Seiki Stainless Steel Corporation

&

The 20th Anniversary of MCC Sanyo Seiki's Mother Company

Sanyo Seiki, through its mother company – MCC, was first to recognize some 20 years ago, the country's need for stainless steel.

It was Mr. Pablo Cuan's vision to tap and open up local architects, designers, engineers and contractors to the incomparable strength, practicality, aesthetics and integrity of this excellent metal.

Sanyo Seiki therefore pioneered the local stainless steel manufacture and helped pave the way for modern, even futuristic structures such as office buildings and home elements, process conveyors and containers for manufacturing facilities and protective as to the sensitive materials they carry or convey.

Today, our relentless pursuit of process improvements rewarded us with the Tuv ISO 9001 ver 2000 Certificate of Global Standards. It caps all our efforts to compete in a larger global market. It is likewise a testimony to the Filipino's capability to stand head and shoulders with the best in the world.

When it comes to stability, compliance to structural and design forms, ease of maintenance and high degree of aesthetics, nothing comes close to stainless steel.

It has become the material of choice in the building industry as well as in medical, architectural, sculptural and the latest in sport and fashionable jewellery designs.

Our Heartfelt Thanks To:

HAWK INDUSTRIAL SALES CO. METROBANK SECURITY BANK RAVAGO EQUIPMENT RENTALS, INC.

MAXFLI MACHINE SHOP • TITO & TET ELECTRICAL SUPPLY • FAREX MARKETING • ECOSYSTEMTECH, INC. • RY INSURANCE GROUP OF AGENCIES • ALLIED BANK
DIAMOND PACIFIC BROKERAGE INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED • BRILLIANCE LOGISTICS INC. and to many more who wish to remain unheralded.

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Nature provides the ingredients for a new drink designed to boost the immune system

Superfruits may be your superfriends

VINCENT Cheng

PALM READING. Know if the vitamins you're taking are working through Pharmanex S2, clinically proven the most accurate gauge of the body's antioxidant network.

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Ryan Lim

THEY ARE CALLED superfruits.

One is scientifically proven to have 70 times more lycopene than tomatoes and 10 times more beta-carotene than carrots. Another has 40 times more zeaxanthin than corn and 60 times more Vitamin C than oranges.

Combined together, they make a potent drink to optimize body performance.

Scientists behind Pharmanex, a line of nutritional supplementation distributed by Nu Skin Enterprises, know one does not have to look farther than nature for things to boost human health. The company's philosophy is that the delicate combination of nature, wisdom and science can change people's lives.

For its new product, g3, Pharmanex combined four superfruits from Southeast Asia to Northern Europe to give consumers the ultimate nutritional drink. Tests indicate it can help rejuvenate cellular function, strengthen the antioxidant network, fortify antioxidant defense against cellular damage and address the common affects of aging by DNA protection. (Antioxidants are substances that help fight disease-causing oxygen free radicals.)

The name g3 comes from the first letter of the product's star superfruit, gac, and the number of other superfruits used—cili (chestnut rose), Chinese lycium (wolfberry) and sea buckthorn (Siberian pineapple).

Gac, though less known worldwide, is prized by the Vietnamese for being able to promote longevity, vitality and health. Available only three months of the year, it is called the "fruit from heaven."

The seeds of the large, bright-red fruit are traditionally used for liver and spleen disorders, wounds, hemorrhoids, bruises, swelling, dry eyes and night blindness.

Pharmanex scientists discovered gac to be especially high in beta-carotene and lycopene, a substance that has been found to lower the risk of prostate cancer and protect the eyes from age-related muscular degeneration and cataracts.

Zeaxanthin in wolfberry has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for 2,000 years for longevity, vision, wellness and headaches. Believed to protect the eye's retina from sun damage, zeaxanthin is one of two carotenoids that the retina accumulates selectively.

"Zeaxanthin actually travels through the microvessels behind the eyeballs," said Vincent Cheng, director of business development-Southeast Asia, Nu Skin Singapore Pte. Ltd.

Oxidation stress known to increase with aging is also addressed by zeaxanthin. Studies conducted by Pharmanex found that consumption of wolfberry dramatically decreased dizziness, fatigue, chest pains, sleep disorders and anorexia among the elderly.

Chestnut rose, a wild plant found in southwest China, has many components with antioxidant activity. It is rich in Vitamin C and E, biotin, polyphenols, zinc, polysaccharides and strontium.

Studies showed the fruit had restorative antioxidants, cardiovascular and mental benefits. It strengthened cells and aided in the conversion of sunlight into Vitamin D.

The Siberian pineapple, native to China, Mongolia, Russia and Northern Europe, is found to increase energy levels, protect the skin against nerve damage, help prevent heart disease and strokes, aid in stabilizing blood pressure and strengthen overall vascular health.

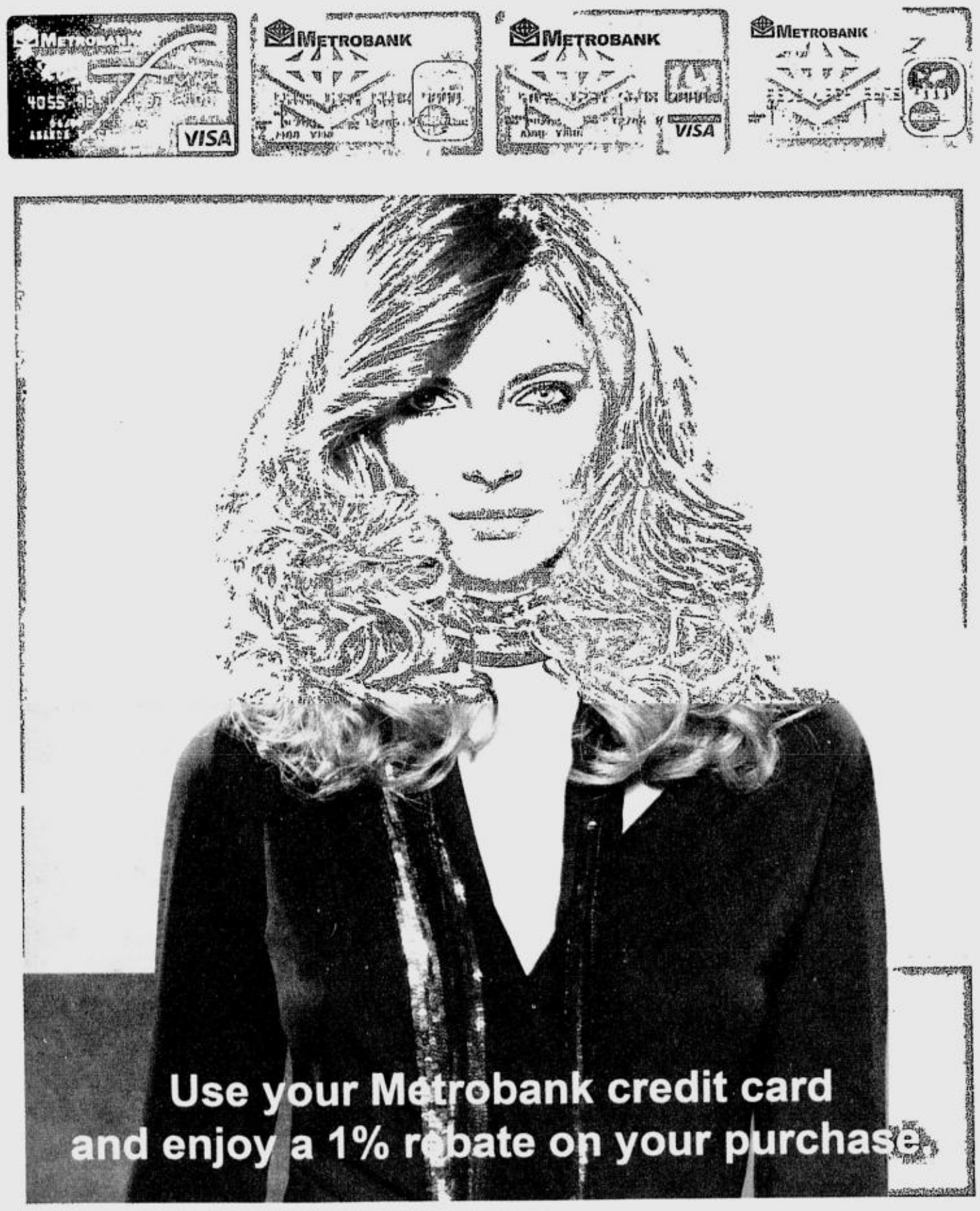
It contains powerful antioxidants that reduce oxidation stress in everyday situations such as exhaustive exercise, driving in heavy traffic, smoking, weight-loss.

Overall, studies have concluded that gac, wolfberry, chestnut rose and Siberian pineapple were highly nutritious fruits that, individually or in combination, can greatly enhance a healthy diet. According to studies, regular consumption of g3 improves the antioxidant defense of the body.

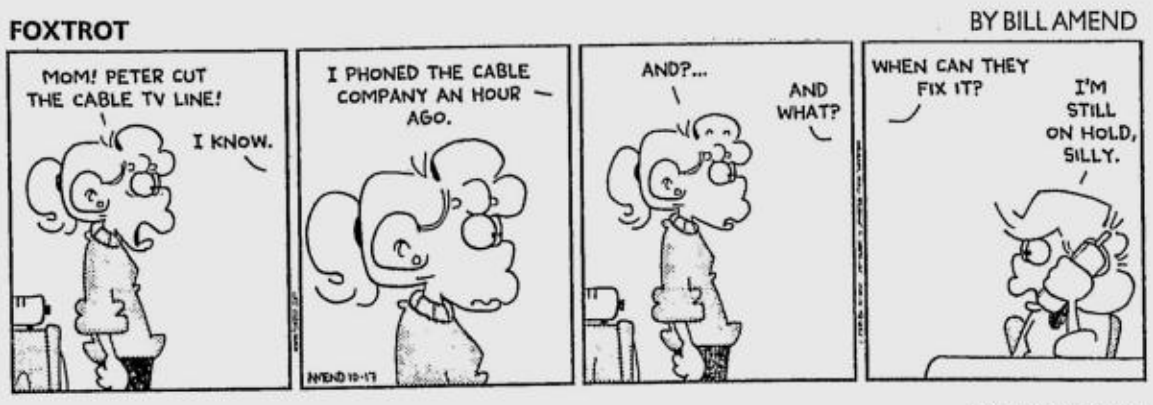
"G3 is consistent with our 6S Quality Process, the basis of our pharmaceutical approach to product development. Our products are slightly expensive, but they come with the Pharmanex guarantee that what consumers get are of superior quality," said Cheng.

He said the 6S Quality Process consisted of: selection, getting the specific effect of a source; sourcing, independent evaluation of raw materials; structure, identifying active as well as any unsafe compounds; standardization, chemical fingerprinting to ensure that each capsule contained the same amount of active ingredients; safety, pharmaceutical-grade testing for presence of microbes, pesticides and heavy metals throughout manufacturing process; and substantiation, product claims backed by documented proofs from pre-clinical and clinical studies instead of anecdotes.

E-mail the author at ajambora @inquirer.com.ph

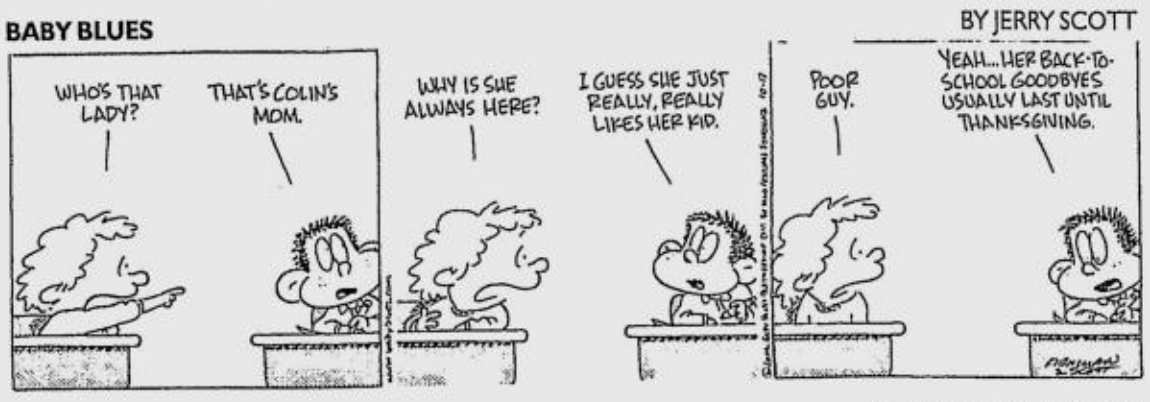


FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

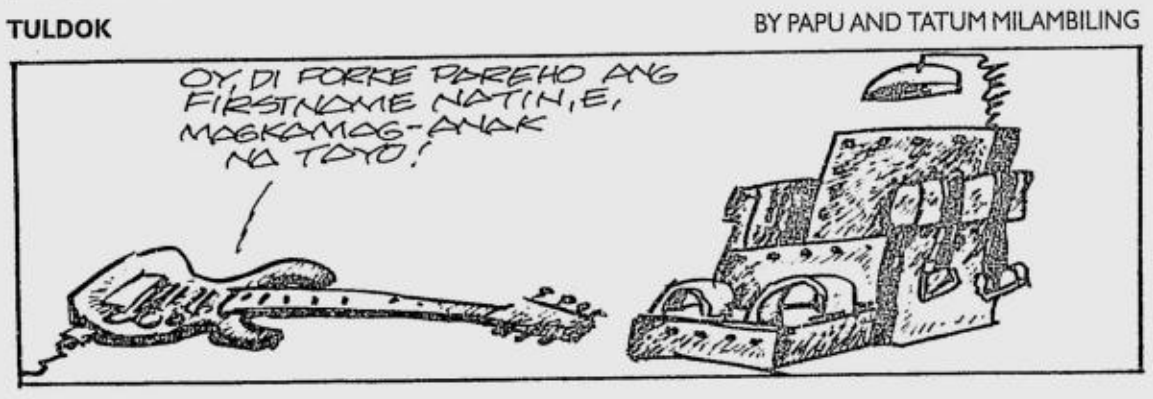
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

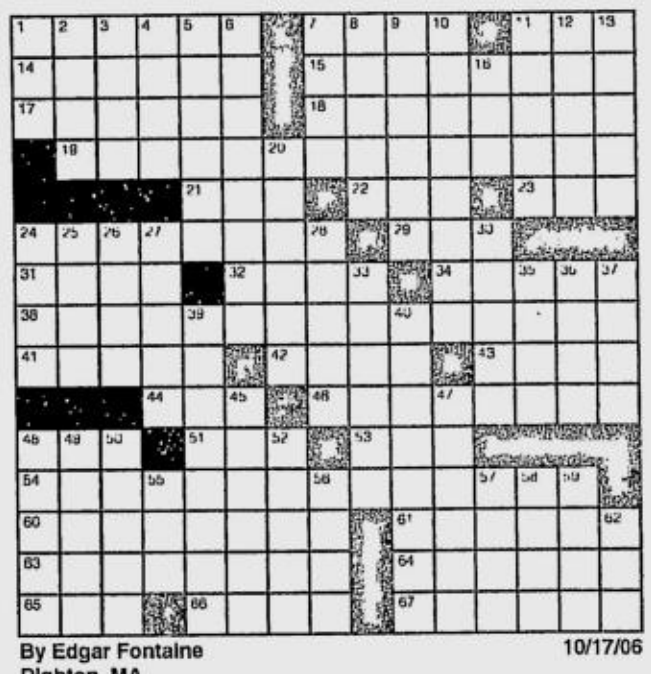


BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Merry
7 Dick Grayson to Bruce Wayne
11 Gen. Arnold's nickname
14 Son of Daedalus
15 Soothing plant juice
17 Dense volcanic rock
18 Tugboat equipment
19 Good person
21 Literary collection
22 H.S. math
23 Nay opposer
24 Living entity
29 Articulate
31 Beer head?
32 Sleeve cards
34 Shinto temple gateway
38 Peter, Paul & Mary hit
41 Chair or car style
42 Aboard ship
43 Theater section
44 Goose the gas
46 One cuffed
48 Ger. auto
51 Grave letters?
53 Indian bread
54 Corposant
60 Official emblem
61 With good sense
63 Got off at an airport
64 Put in a box
65 Last letter of words?
66 "Smooth Operator" singer
67 Flower part

DOWN
1 Triangular sail
2 Andean tubers
3 Juanita's house
4 Like some exams
5 Ottoman honcho
6 Tallinn man
7 Unit of electricity
8 Hi, on HI
9 Spur wheels
10 Not micromanage
11 Clay or Frick
12 Narrow ridge
13 Turkish nabob
16 By way of
20 Broad band of color
24 Poetic peepers
25 Frasier, to Kelsey
26 Well-behaved
27 Battling
28 Table constellation
30 Loud complaints
33 Buffet tray warmer
35 Prison uprising
36 "Picnic" playwright
37 Nice notion
39 Neon or radon
40 Torments persistently
45 City on the Danube
47 __ terrible (bad boy)
48 Half a single?
49 Leonine growths
50 Fleeting traces
52 Wielded
55 Zilch
56 Fabricated
57 Machu Picchu builders
58 Do a boring job
59 Otherwise
62 Longing for money in Tokyo?



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA
10/17/06

Monday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	W	P		S	H	A	W	L		M	A	K	O
A	U	R	A		N	O	W	A	Y		E	D	E	N
S	T	A	Y	S	O	N	O	N	E	S	T	O	E	S
P	O	P		N	O	E	L			M	E	R	L	E
			H	A	Z	Y		F	A	I	R	E	S	T
A	L	L	E	G	E		S	O	I	L	S			
B	E	E	R			E	T	U	D	E		A	D	O
L	A	N	D	S	O	N	O	N	E	S	F	E	E	T
E	N	D		A	W	A	R	D			L	O	C	I
			F	L	E	C	K		P	L	A	N	K	S
F	A	R	E	A	S	T		C	H	A	P			
I	B	E	A	M			A	L	A	S		T	E	A
D	I	G	S	I	N	O	N	E	S	H	E	E	L	S
E	D	I	T		U	L	N	A	E		G	A	S	H
L	E	S	S		B	E	A	N	S		G	R	E	Y

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10/17/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Regardless of how you feel, others see you as vibrant and confident. You seem daring at times. You have style! Your ability to persevere and to bounce back from obstacles and challenges is admirable. (And you always work hard.) This year might be one of the most powerful years of your life. Dream big!
Birthdate of: Alan Jackson, singer; George Wendt, actor; Wyclef Jean, singer

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Serious discussions with partners and close friends can improve the relationship. Both parties (this includes you) are willing to take an honest, deep look at things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can make changes to your job today. These changes will either improve or reform how you do your job, or improve where you do it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might enjoy mysteries, puzzles, whodunits and games today. You have a very probing, playful mind right now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is the perfect day to clean up at home. Get rid of garbage and all kinds of things you no longer need or use. Sell it, recycle it or give it away.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You want to get to the point in discussions with others. You don't want surface chit-chat; you want the real nitty-gritty truth.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might see better ways of how to spend your money today. If you can use your resources or wealth to better others as well as yourself, then you will be fortunate in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is the perfect day to sign up for an exercise course or join a gym so that you can improve your body, your health and your appearance. Act on this idea right now!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Trust your intuition. You might find that by working behind the scenes or working by yourself, you can help others and, in this way, improve the situation for everyone. Bravo!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be afraid to confront the power of a group today. If you encounter some kind of collective thinking that benefits society as a whole, this is a good thing.

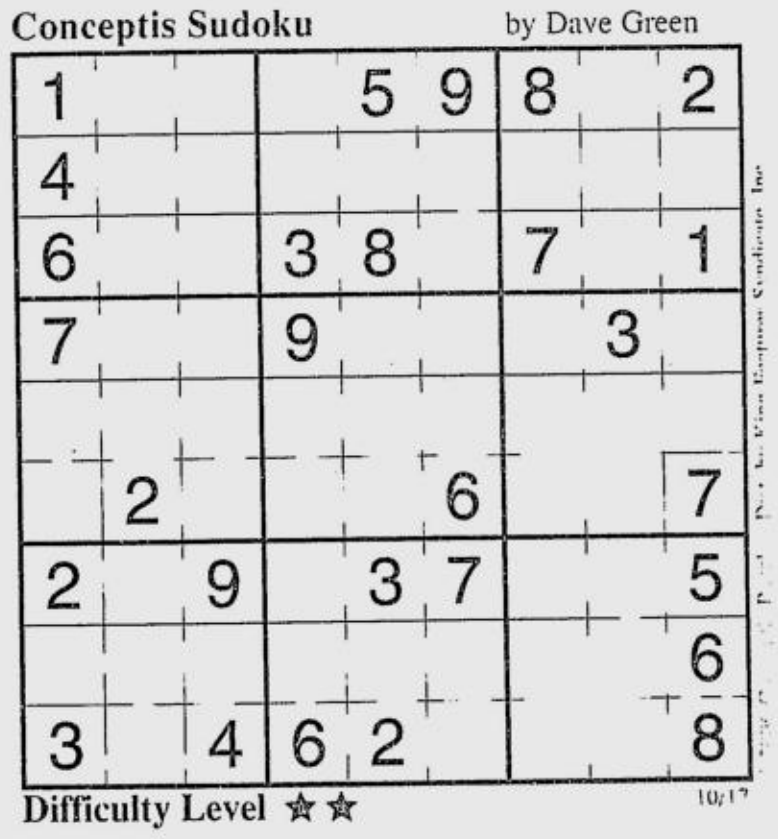
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Work with bosses and people in power to get to the bottom of something today. If everyone works for the good of everyone else, then everyone wins!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might have input into a political or religious situation that involves the media or publishing in some way. If your input benefits others, then work hard to make this a reality.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might have the opportunity to use the resources of someone else to benefit a number of people. If you can do this, more power to you!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★
10/17

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	3	4	1	2	9	5	6	8
5	1	8	4	6	7	3	9	2
6	2	9	3	8	5	4	1	7
4	9	1	8	5	2	6	7	3
2	6	3	7	1	4	9	8	5
8	7	5	6	9	3	2	4	1
3	4	2	9	7	8	1	5	6
9	8	6	5	3	1	7	2	4
1	5	7	2	4	6	8	3	9

Difficulty Level ★

HEY, the gang's all here! Raul Manzano, Pepper Teehankee, Anton Mendoza, Vicky Zubiri, Migs Z. and Rante Aguila

WE ARE FAMILY. Derrick Abaya, Marilen Torres and husband, Dr. Manuel Fernandez, with their daughter Melissa Fernandez Abaya

GUEST of honor Luli Arroyo, man of the hour Rep. Miguel Zubiri and wife, Audrey

Through a lens clearly

DOODY Menchaca Tuason, Vicky Lopez Tuason and Nikki Prieto Teodoro

FORD Makati president Willy Tee Ten, Cat Motors president Felix Ang and wife Grace

NELIA and Lino Cortez

DETTE Aquino-Tan

"SPICE BOYS." Representatives Ace Barbers and Ricky Sandoval

REP. Gilbert Teodoro

FREDDIE Olbes

MARGE Ansaldo Tambunting and Boompy Martel

IT IS SAID, *PALANGGAS*, "THAT a picture is worth a thousand words."

The fantastic images captured by popular multi-talented Rep. **Juan Miguel "Migs" Zubiri**'s SLR (single lens reflex) camera, they do a lot more than simply reflect a vision of paradise. They actually make the scenes come alive.

A photography bug by his own admission, Miguel's passion for capturing life in still pictures was showcased in his super successful 25-piece photo exhibit at the modern One Workshop Gallery.

Simply called "Out of Africa," Miguel Z. took the photos for the exhibit on his honeymoon in Zambia and Botswana, dahlings. Caught on film were majestic animals in all their glory, as well as awesome views of the great African outdoors.

As in any collection, some truly stood out, making them the cream of this photography crop—"Lion King," "Golden Sunset at Zambesi" and "Kissing Under the Baobab Tree."

Another favorite was "My Wife, My Life," a moving black-and-white portrait of Miguel's pretty pretty wife **Audrey Tan**, against the vast waters of Zambia, showing his romantic side, *palanggas*.

Brilliant presidential daughter **Luli Arroyo** snipped the ribbon formally opening the exhibit attended by tons of hotshots who believe in nature conservation.

Miguel's proud parents, Bukidnon's unmatchable Gov. **Joe Zubiri** and wife, glam-gal **Vicky Z.**, with Miguel's wife, Audrey T., graciously entertained the invitees, *palanggas*.

In a grand show of support for the benevolent efforts of this young Bukidnon legislator to save Philippine wildlife, the eye-catching pieces were sold out. Loads of guests asked, "When is the next show?"

Proceeds will help complete the 4.5-hectare Bukidnon Deer Park and Wildlife Center, and support the conservation of endangered flora and fauna that *moi* saw in Bukidnon, *palanggas*.

Miguel says: "I'm an artist now. I'm doing this for a cause that I truly believe in." With this thought in the mind of this humble photographer, who can say that art exists only for art's sake, *n'est-ce pas* (as in *'di bala*), *palanggas*?

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Swinging fourth

It was a Saturday and all roads led to the fab upscale Nuvo, Manille's most popular resto-bar. Our town's chic and beautiful people joined Nuvo's man for all seasons **Louie Ysmael** and his super team for a swinging celebration of the resto's fourth anniversary, dahlings.

Everyone schmoozed and boozed, swayed and sashayed to the super sounds of **Elian Habayeb** as Nuvo celebrated, French-style.

Theme was "Sante!" a toast to four years of great food and drinks, superior service, excellent ambience and divine music.

"There is no place like this in town, where you can have all of the above and see the best crowd in Manila in a typical European indoor and outdoor setting," Louie Y. proudly said.

But it wasn't all party and play, *palanggas*, 'cause the happening benefited one of Louie Y's pet charities—The Children's Hour.

But since it was rock and roll time, the party people rocked Nuvo to intensity 10. They included in-demand architect and interior designer **Anton Mendoza**; **Gerry Gill** of the newly opened, already popular Piedra Bar and Resto; head-turner **Annette Coronel**; **Jamie Dilidili**; **Anton Barretto** of Pineapple; gorgeous **Phoemela Barranda**; and the gang of beautiful-to-look-at, delightful-to-know PMAP models: popular entrepreneur **Danny Gill**, plus tons of others like them too gorgeous to namedrop, *palanggas*.

Hey, watch out for the soon-to-open hip, fine-dining Thai restaurant simply called Silk at the promenade of Serendra at The Fort. I must say, from what *moi* tried, it will be one of the best Thai restos. It should be another winner.

Lovelies

That super charitable organization, the Love 14 Foundation, hosted a degustation dinner, downed with Magnum 5 wine, at the Parallel 45 Restaurant in Mandaluyong City to announce 2007's Manila's Five Loveliest, *palanggas*.

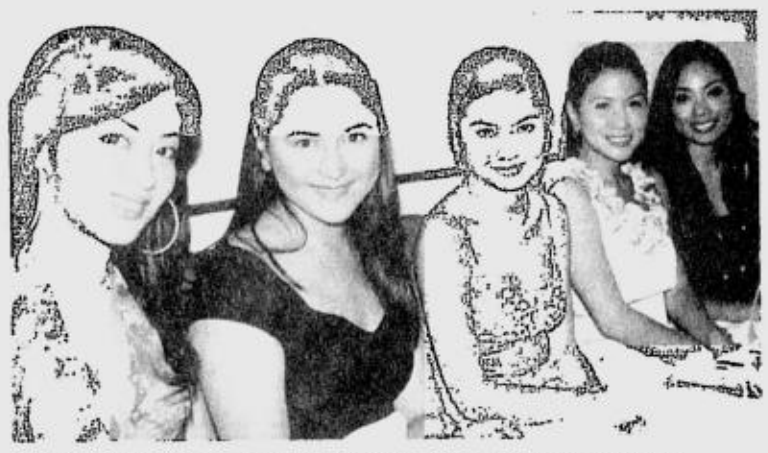
This year's president, **Chacha Camacho**, and workasonic chair, civic and charity-oriented **Nini Licaros**, together with other Love 14 trustees, entertained the five young beauties and their proud parents.

Manila's 2007 chosen five are **Charisse Abalos**, **Jill Bunaguen**, **Chinna Juban**, **Ysa Villar** and **Mila Zamora**. In keeping with tradition, the grand formal presentation will be on Oct. 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, coinciding with the foundation's 18th anniversary.

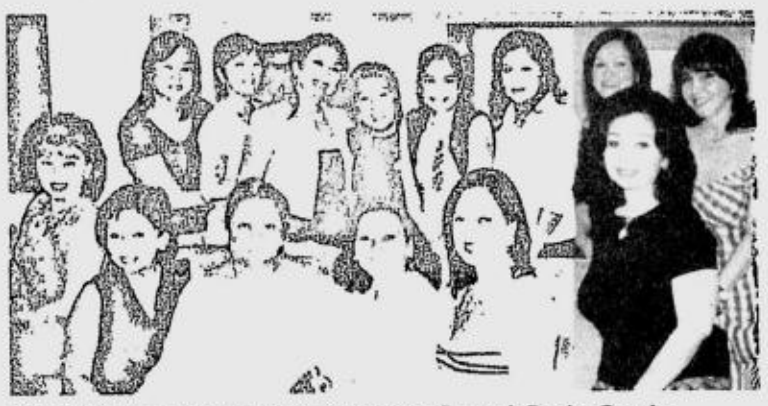
Beneficiaries of this gala event will be the lucky 1,800 Grade 1 pupils of all public schools in the poorest municipality of the Philippines, Claveria, Misamis Oriental, plus the Love 14 Scholarship Fund, for other deserving students, *palanggas*.

GEORGE and Sandy Marcelo

PERFECT couple. Manuel Zubiri and wife Ana Garcia



MANILA'S Five Loveliest 2007. Jill Bunaguen, Charisse Abalos, Chinna Juban, Ysa Villar and Mila Zamora



LOVE 14 officers and board of trustees. Seated: Becky Garcia, treasurer; Nini Valdez, secretary; Naty Pappas; Chacha Camacho, president; Nini Licaros, chair; and Carrie Bautista. Standing: Jeny Napoles, Linda Ranillo, Celia Cuasay, Winnie Monsod, Yoli Ayson, Mons Tantoco, Ibet Medalla and Ana de Dios

POPULAR couple Edwin and Digna Arce

VANESSA Mayuga, Chris Yam and Leica Carpo

CHITO Melo, interior designer Saps Uttam, businessman Bonito Singson and Nuvo's first couple, Cecille Chang and husband Louie Ysmael

ABSINTH'S Christine San Diego and *moi*

MAGNATE Peng Perez de Tagle and wife, vivacious Vicky Villa P. de T.

DJ MONTANO and hot hip designer Rhett Eala

NOEL de la Merced and Robin da Rosa

How not to diet

Inside Out
Cory Quirino

TIME AND AGAIN, THE question is asked: "How can I diet?"

Truth is, the word diet connotes negative feelings, involves denial and implies discipline.

When a person accepts diet with that mind set, the battle of the bulge is already lost.

Losing the fight

There are many ways to be defeated.

- Pamper yourself to the max. No ifs, no buts.
- The word diet does not exist in your vocabulary.
- Or, if it does exist in your vocabulary, it inspires fear.
- Hang out with people who cannot say no to overeating and eat-all-you-can meals.
- Eat whatever you see and whenever you see it. This makes you an official member of the See-food Club, when you see food, you eat it.
- Be a "duster fashionista." Make the duster your official uniform. This way, you can never feel too big for your clothes.
- Wear party clothes one size larger. You can easily justify eating more because your clothes are still a loose fit. When your clothes feel tight, you have no room for food. Example: If you are a size 8, you wear a size 10. Or, you fasten your belt buckle a notch away from your actual waist size.
- Befriend the party fun people. Make them your *barkada*. There is nothing they enjoy more than an open bar and buffet fare. Eat, drink and be merry, they say. Tomorrow is another day.
- Blame your doctor, best friend, boss or husband/love for restricting your exercise regimen (if you have any at all). They do not give you permission and/or time to work out.
- Be a couch potato. Do not exercise. Even if you know you can do the job yourself, make other people do it for you.
- In an office building, ignore the sign that says: "Please take the stairs if going up one or two floors. It's good for your heart." Instead, take the elevator.
- When stressed out, depressed or feeling low, go to a pastry shop and order your favorite chocolate éclair or whatever you crave to feel better instantly.
- Binge. You owe it to yourself. Whether its food or alcohol, your boys night out or girls lunch out is sacred.
- Believe that the best way to a man's heart is through his stomach. So, indulge. And join him in excessively liberal portions.
- Keep a refrigerator in your bedroom. Make sure food is within easy reach at all time.
- When you do the groceries, buy in bulk because your favorite junk food will be so much cheaper. Value the savings!
- The best gift you can possibly give a friend is your favorite strawberry short cake instead of a basket of fruits. This way you can share it!
- Make food your best friend. It's always there for you—comforting and dependable.
- Do not believe in detoxifying your body. The word detox, along with cleansing, has nothing to do with your lifestyle.
- Happiness is self-gratification. If you give in to your impulses then you're doing yourself a whole lot of good.

For your sake

The preceding list is dedicated to those constantly struggling with destructive self-talk and actions. Having finally placed in print some of your worst habits and arguments, for your sake and not for heaven's sake, take heed.

If you want to be healthier, find humor in this list. And do the exact opposite.

Love and light!

Inhale, exhale, inhale, exhale

Part one

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

JOSEPH PILATES SAID, "EVEN IF YOU follow no other instructions, learn to breathe correctly."

But what does "correctly" mean? Yogis believe the mouth is only for eating and talking and that all breathing should be done only through the nose.

In Pilates, you inhale through the nose and exhale through the mouth. There are other breathing rules for strength training, running, cycling and the martial arts.

Why should there be different breathing styles for different exercise formats? Isn't breathing simply a matter of inhaling and exhaling?

Yes and no. The answer lies in the way the breath is used to enhance the performance of the workout. Let's take a quick peek at exercise breathing techniques.

Take note that this is just a short overview. Advanced breathing techniques can be very detailed and technical and can even be highly specific to individual athletes competing in the same events. What works for you may not work for someone else.

Nose or mouth?

There appears to be three basic breathing styles regarding the use of the nose and mouth.

- Exclusively through the nose
- Exclusively through the mouth
- Inhaling with the nose and exhaling through the mouth

There are only a few techniques where you inhale with the mouth and exhale through the nose, like the advanced yoga breath called Sitkari Pranayama.

Inhaling through the nose has four distinct advantages. The nose acts as a filter to prevent dust and other particles from getting into the lungs. In addition, this method warms the air, prevents gas from getting into the stomach, and controls naturally the intensity of your workout by maintaining the correct balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Breathing through the mouth allows you to take in larger than normal volumes of air. This can be helpful when you need a lot of oxygen quickly during vigorous aerobic exercise.

But mouth breathing can also lead to mild hyperventilation if you release carbon dioxide faster than necessary.

A certain level of carbon dioxide in your blood tells your body that it is time to inhale. Blood vessels dilate in response. When carbon dioxide is given off too quickly, low levels fool your body into thinking you don't need to inhale just yet. Blood vessels constrict, restricting the amount of oxygen you need. This can lead to premature fatigue halfway through your workout.

However, some people have absolutely no hyperventilation problems with two-way mouth breathing during the more intense portions of their exercise. The technique seems to work for them.

Inhaling through the nose and exhaling through the mouth is a common technique in aerobics classes and other forms of cardiovascular exercise like walking, running, cycling and swimming.

Some people like using two-way mouth breathing when the exercise intensity climbs and going back to nose-mouth breathing when the intensity is reduced.

Forced exhalation

A Pilates class is a noisy class. A taekwondo class is even noisier. The "noise" is caused by forced exhalations. The technique is also popular in other martial arts and heavyweight lifting.

The contraction of abdominal muscles assists the diaphragm to push upward to expel air from the lungs. Forced exhalations are useful when you need to create power to kick, throw, pull, push or punch. Some runners use a similar technique called "rhino breathing." The term is self-explanatory.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Free bone screening to mark Osteoporosis Day Oct. 20

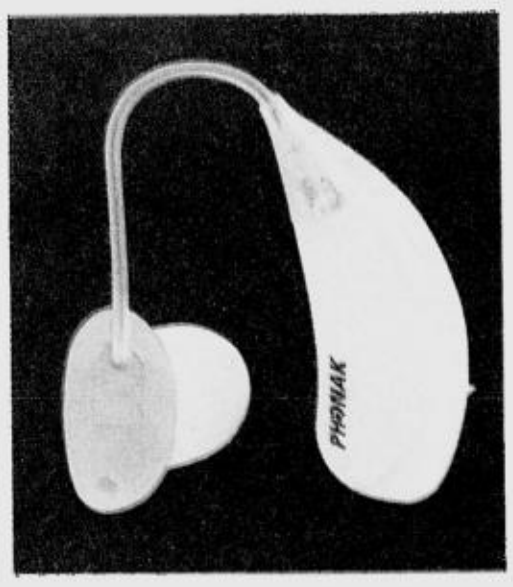
ROCHE PHILIPPINES IS HOLDING FREE bone screening and lectures on bone wellness in selected areas nationwide as part of the month-long observance of World Osteoporosis Day Oct. 20.

In partnership with the Philippine Society for Endocrinology and Metabolism (PSEM), Roche will conduct bone tests Oct. 24, 30 and 31 in key areas in Manila. The latest top-of-the-line bone test machines, the Dexa and the peripheral bone test machine, will be used to help patients with osteoporosis monitor their progress during treatment.

Roche started the month-long event with a lunch forum where Dr. Miles Francis de la Rosa of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association (POA) talked about bone screening. A symposium featuring Dr. Tito Torralba of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital was held during the Annual Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Convention.

The 1st Annual Meeting of Patients Against Osteoporosis (PAO) will also be held during the month through BonDiva, an exclusive patient-support program set up by Roche. Other activities for bone health and wellness are ongoing in partnership with Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA), American College of Clinical Endocrinology (Philippine chapter) and POA.

Visit www.bondiva.com.ph or call the BonDiva hotline, 8971234.



MINI HEARING AID

The Manila Hearing Aid Center has launched Phonak's new MicroPower hearing system, a revolutionary miniature power device developed for active users with significant hearing loss. Using MicroPower's Canal Receiver Technology (CRT), the new product is the first micro device with an automatic T-coil and FM capability. Visit Manila Hearing Aid Center at SM Megamall, 6336039; Glorietta, 8943498; Quezon City, 7123630; SM North Edsa, 4420047; Cubao, 9111528; Taft Avenue, Manila, 5215726; and SM Mall of Asia, 5560589.

MEDICard - The Healthcare I Deserve!

What is the best screening /diagnostic tool for breast cancer?

Take Charge Doc!

Breast Cancer is the most common malignancy in women, accounting for 32% of all female cancers. It is also responsible for 18% of cancer deaths in women and making it the number 2 cause of cancer deaths. With the improved awareness on the part of both women and health care providers, more breast cancers are being diagnosed in the early stage, hence improving survival. The current recommendation is for women to begin monthly breast self-examination at the age of 20. Women who performed breast self-examination are more likely to have smaller tumors and less likely to have axillary node metastases than those who don't. It is also recommended that women should start clinical breast exam at the age of 20 and have an exam (by a physician) every 3 years from the age of 20 to 39, and yearly at age 40 onwards. Morever, mammography is also recommended yearly after the age of 40 and for those high-risk patients with genetic risk/family history should begin screening mammography at the age of 25.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Bulacan, Dr. Anna Marie Pascual. She specializes in Medical Oncology. She graduated from De La Salle University Medical Center in 1995 and later took her specialization training for Internal Medicine at National Kidney & Transplant Institute. In 2003, Dra. Anna obtained her subspecialty course for Medical Oncology at St. Luke's Medical Center. She is a member of the Philippine College of Physicians and fellow of the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and Philippine Society of Oncology. MEDICARD members may avail of her consultation services at Sta. Clara De Montefalco Hospital (Bulacan) during Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Knee-supported biceps curl

STRENGTHENS THE BICEPS

Equipment:
Dumbbell and exercise mat

Exercise technique:
1. Hold a dumbbell with your right hand. Place your elbow on your knee. Hold your elbow steady with the opposite hand.
2. Starting position is with the dumbbell facing the ceiling.
3. Extend your arm. Return to starting position.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:
1. Rest opposite hand on your knee and cup your elbow to keep the arm steady and supported in the extended position.
2. Inhale when you straighten your arm; exhale when you curl it.
3. Don't try to straighten your arm completely if you feel discomfort in your elbow.

Repetitions:
Do 10-15 repetitions per arm.

22 fingers of 11 men lift heavy stone

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime T. Licauco

A DAY BEFORE WE WENT TO THE fabulous Ellora and Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad City, some five hours by car from Pune, India, our host, Ajay Mehta, told us about a heavy stone at the back of a Muslim mosque not far from Pune that can be lifted by 11 men, each using only two fingers.

"I was about to ask you that!" I exclaimed. I read about this mysterious stone in a book on extraterrestrials a long time ago. That story was confirmed to me by a foreigner who saw the phenomenon himself.

"Since it's along the way to the Ellora Caves, I think you should not miss passing by to see it," he told us. He instructed our driver to take us to the mosque first before proceeding to Aurangabad.

Near disappointment

The next day, excitement almost turned to complete disappointment when we saw the stone. Why?

What I heard about that mysterious stone was this:

1. It is a boulder about six feet long and four feet wide and weighs several tons.

2. If 11 men (no women allowed) place their right hand on top of it while chanting a certain mantra, the big stone will rise several feet from the ground.

3. If anyone removes his hand or stops chanting, the stone falls flat to the ground.

I told this story many times in my class on ESP to illustrate the tremendous powers of the mind.

Some years ago, I met an Austrian spiritual seeker and adventurer named Alfonso, who had been all over India and confirmed the story was true. When I asked what they were chanting as the stone was being lifted, he said it sounded like "Ka ka ka ka ka!" I didn't realize he merely invented the sound.

I had completely forgotten what I wrote in my 1978 book "Understanding the Psychic Powers of Man," which was nearer the truth but still not entirely correct.

This is what I wrote then: "In this relatively unknown village called Shivapur, there stands in front of a mosque dedicated to the Sufi Saint Quamar Ali Dervish a big granite boulder weighing 55 kg. If 11 people simultaneously touch the boulder with their index fingers chanting 'Quamar Ali Dervish' in loud, ringing tones, the boulder floats into the air for a second and drops with a heavy thud.

"If there are more, or less than, 11 individuals touching the boulder, nothing happens. Or if the words 'Quamar Ali Dervish' are not shouted distinctly at a certain pitch, it will not move. The demonstration takes place six times a day everyday."

I got that information from the book "We Are Not the First" by Andrew Tomas.

Different reality

That's not exactly what my wife and I discovered in that Muslim mosque. Instead of a big boulder, what we saw was just an ordinary-looking oval-shaped stone about one and a half feet long, maybe a foot wide and half a foot in depth.

In broken English, accompanied by hand gestures, I told the men standing idly by what we were looking for and they pointed to that stone. Soon afterward, several men approached and placed the stone, which was quite heavy, on top of some smaller pebbles so that its bottom could be reached.

Then 11 men positioned themselves, placing their two fingers under the stone. As they shouted "Quamar Ali Darvesh" (not Dervish), they lifted the stone way above their heads. Then they scampered out of the way as the stone fell to the ground with a heavy thud.

I tried to lift the stone with both hands and arms. I couldn't move it. One of the men whispered in my ear, "101 kilos." He was referring to the weight of the stone. That's about 220 pounds, I said to myself.

I asked if I could participate in lifting the stone. They all eagerly said yes. They showed me how to position my two legs. The right foot should be forward and the left foot behind. My index and middle fingers were the only ones that should touch the stone. They told me to shout "Quamar Ali Darvesh" while lifting the stone at the same time.

The first attempt was not so impressive. So we did it again. I told my wife to take pictures but the action happened so fast and so many men were lifting the stone that she couldn't get a good shot.

After that, I let the other men do it while I took pictures. This time, they lifted the heavy stone so high I was able to take a good shot of it flying way above their heads. It was an impressive sight!

I tried to ask somebody about the history of the stone. Where did it come from? Who discovered the ritual? Who taught them the chant? Why only men were allowed to lift, etc. But no one spoke good English and we left the place after giving a donation to those who helped demonstrate the ritual.

Impressive

Here again is an example of reality being different from stories told by others. Although the stone was not as big and as heavy as I was made to believe, it was nevertheless an impressive demonstration because it was not possible to lift a 220-lb object with only two fingers of each of 11 men.

I wanted to have four, instead of 11, men try to lift the stone, each using only two fingers, but I couldn't get anybody to understand me. So I abandoned the idea.

I thought of that alternative ritual because I taught students to lift a heavy person (weighing almost 200 lb)—four persons using only two fingers each. My gut feel is that stone in India can be lifted that way. I wish someday to have a chance to prove it.

Note: Contact Julie Ang at 0917-7061175 for Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation seminar I will conduct Oct. 22 in Cagayan de Oro City, and Bong Amante at 0917-3252845 for the Inner Mind Development Seminar Oct. 28-29 in Cebu City.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 22
inment@inquirer.com.ph

Bea as Mama Mary, serial killer and lead in movie musical

BIRTHDAY GIRL. Bea Alonzo turns 19 today.

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

BEA ALONZO TURNS 19 TODAY. The birthday girl has no big celebration. Instead, she wants to do something she's never done before—drive out of town alone. Getting away from it all will make her appreciate what she has even more. Detachment has its rewards.

Life and love have been kind to Bea. "I live in my own condo unit now, but I still take care of my family. John Lloyd (Cruz) hasn't been to my pad. Miko (Palanca) has visited me there, though. I'm still thinking what housewarming gift I'll ask from Loydie and Miko." Those two guys keep her heart warm. "I wouldn't have gotten this far if not for Loydie. I've learned a lot from him. But we're not compatible. Good thing that we click onscreen."

Bea and Loydie may outgrow their tandem but not each other. As for Miko, Bea says: "It's more than enough knowing he's there for me. I'm not yet ready for commitment and responsibility." What she's focusing on is her career. Her dream roles? "As Mama Mary, a serial killer and the lead in a musical à la 'Moulin Rouge.'" Such extreme choices, huh? A hardworking girl like Bea deserves to have her birthday cake and eat it too!

• Sweetness is in everything Ogie Alcasid does. He texted me from Australia just to ask how I spent my birthday. One of my most unforgettable birthdays was when Ogie gamely held a mini-concert at my party. He's in OZ for the 9th birthday of eldest daughter Leila. "Great bonding time. My gift to her is the latest Nintendo." Ogie is too happy being dad to be bothered by nasty rumors about his plight as husband. When he's with his family in the Land Down Under, things can't really be over!

• Rachel Alejandro is euphoric after winning two gold medals (Rock and Original Works) and one silver medal (Broadway) in the World Championship of Performing Arts in LA. What better way to celebrate her victory than with a "Greatest Hits" album? It includes a trio with South Border's Duncan Ramos and Vince Alaras—a Jay Durias arrangement of her old hit, "Kay Tagal." She says her BF Philip keeps her grounded. "He's the anchor; I'm the rudder." No wonder, everything's smooth-sailing in Rachel's life. It's got equal waves of art and adventure.

• All the issues hounding Willie Revillame after wife Liz Almoro filed for annulment reminds me of the time his marriage to Princess Punzalan crumbled. I was privy to that chapter in his life because Ces and I are like sisters. But out of respect, I'd rather not divulge details. Suffice it to say that Willie should know what's right by now. After all, it's the second time. If Willie gets hitched the third time, there'll be no more hitches. The only way to pass the surprise tests of marriage is by mastering its lessons first. Sometimes love is such a cruel teacher!

• I cornered Paw Diaz about the rumor that she's pregnant and the "culprit" is Cueshé's Jay Justiniani. She's aghast: "That's so crazy!" Crazy in

BEA/ D3

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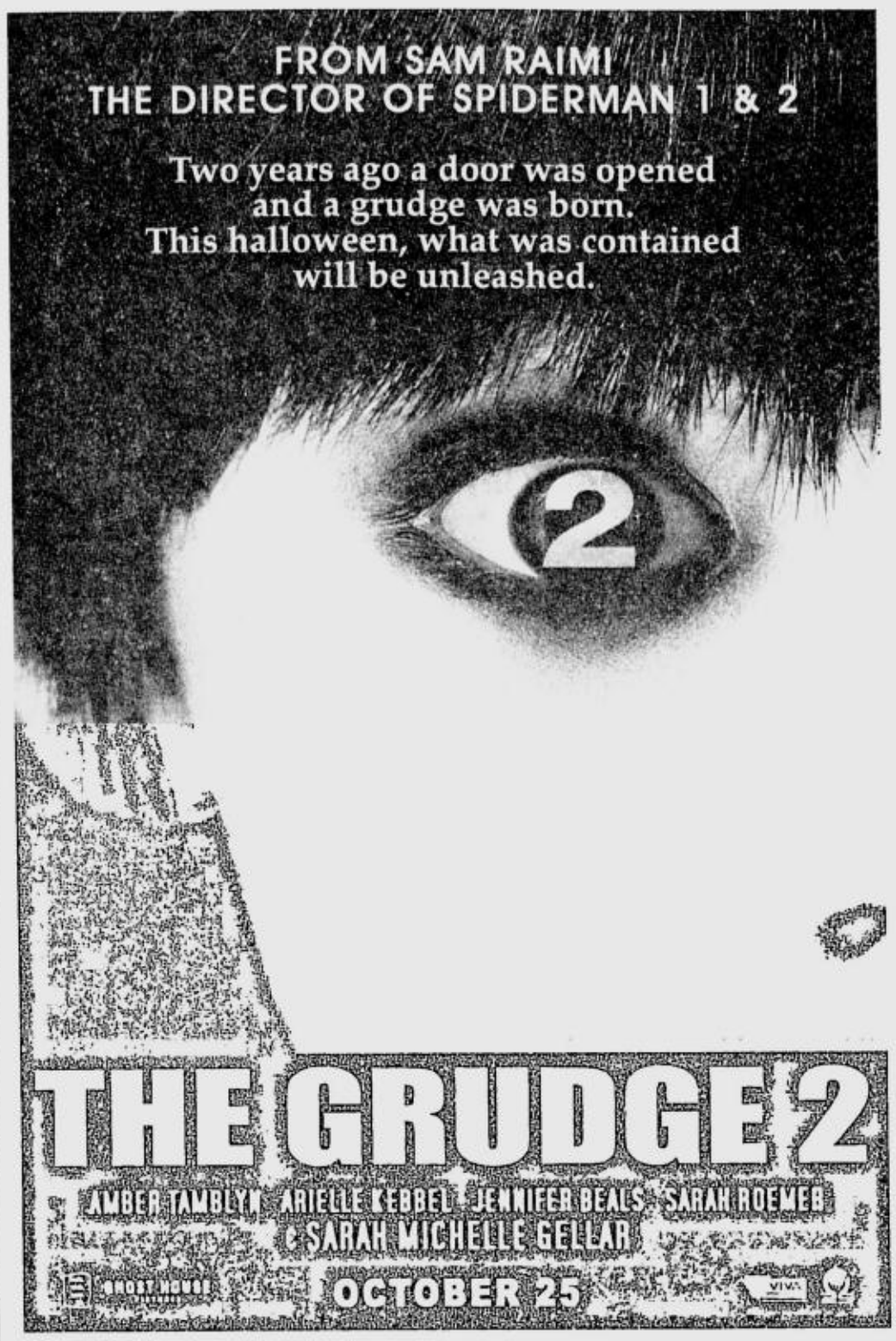

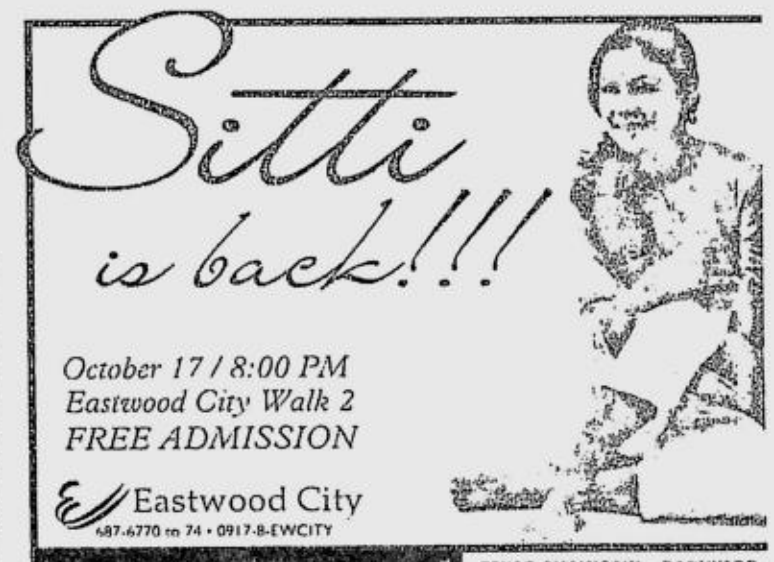

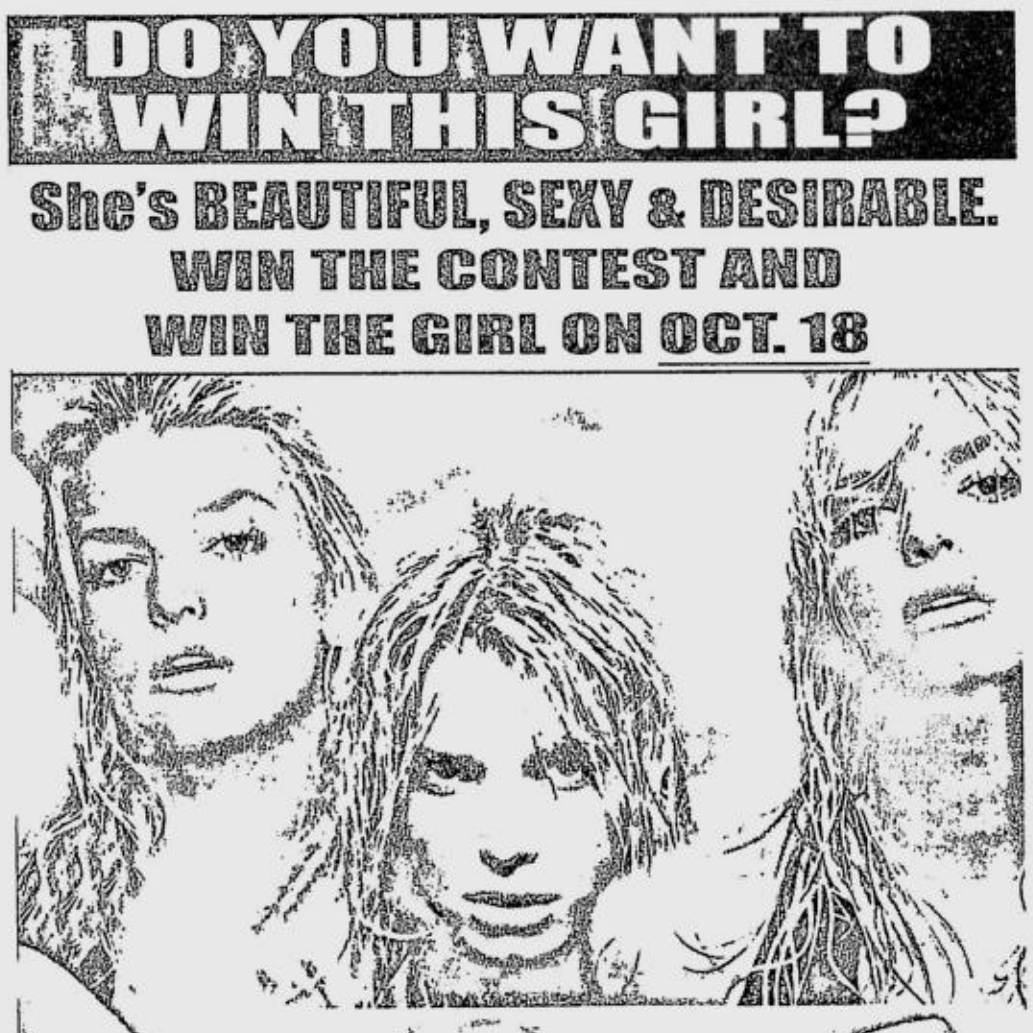

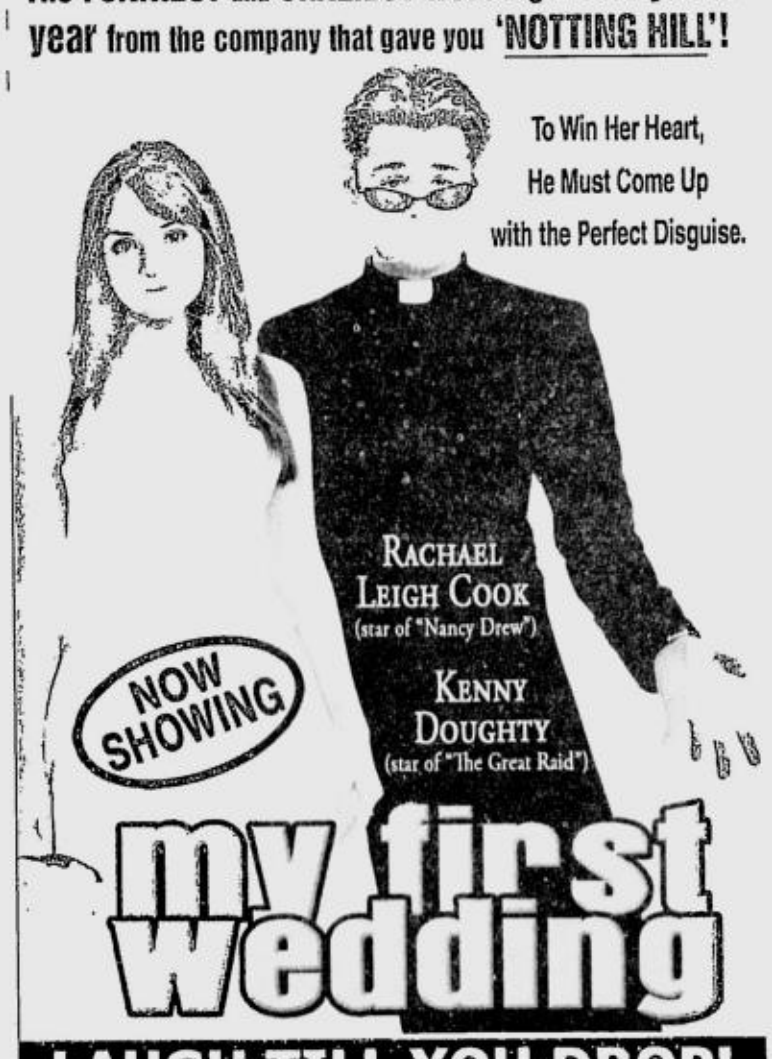

D

Bea as Mama Mary ...

From page D1

love and/or in lust? Let Paw's belly do the talking. Were her paws really caught by Jay's claws?

Guess list

• Guess who this sexy actress is! After leaving her longtime BF, she checked in at a condotel for three weeks. Not to mend her broken heart but to 'revitalize' her bed body. An award-winning actor and a hunk took turns in keeping her company. I wonder if her current BF has any inkling about her collection of boy-toys!

• Guess who this starlet is! During a show's taping, she insisted on having her own dressing room. The other guests, who are more popular than she is, didn't have any qualms about sharing one dressing room. Ms Starlet had three *alalays* in tow. Perhaps to help her carry her oversized ego?

'Captain Barbell' tour

MAGGI Rich Mami Noodles, Pinoy-style Spaghetti and Creamy Spaghetti kick off a nationwide road tour featuring "Captain Barbell" star Richard Gutierrez. He will visit markets and groceries starting Oct. 21. Ten lucky texters will land a special cameo role in the *telefantasya*. Cash prizes are also at stake. To join, look for the collectible "Captain Barbell" stickers in Maggi packs.

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Regine gives ...

From page D4

It's a good thing that less hysterical performers are on hand to balance the stylistic equation. As a result, despite the movie's low or shrill moments, viewing it is a generally positive experience.

The film's first half is particularly eventful and diverting. But the production has a rough time making the radical transition from "funny" to "serious," and awkward moments accumulate.

Things get even dodgier when the two leads finally admit to their "forbidden" love for one another, Eddie becomes aware of it, Regine gives up her dream of living a wealthy life, and Robin is conflicted due to his love for both his surrogate dad *and* his unintended intended.

All this proves to be too sticky a mess to efficiently sort out, so the film's denouement is decidedly dense. Despite this muggy conclusion, however, the movie's score sheet still ends up with enough plus points to make it a positive viewing experience.

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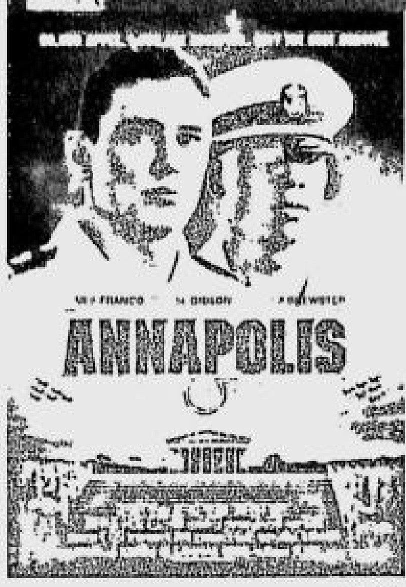

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1 TILL I MET YOU
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE GUARDIAN

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE NUN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 STEP UP
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 FLY BOY
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BREED

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREED
2 RESERVE
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 RESERVED
8 FLY BOYS

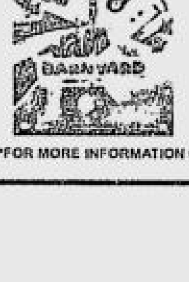
SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE DEPARTED
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 FLY BOYS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE BREED

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

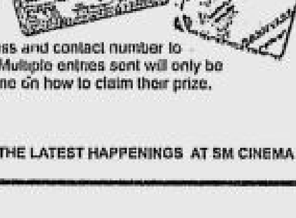
movietime PROMO

Watch and Win at SM Cinema



WIN! BARNYARD stationery case, lunch boxes and message boards from United International Pictures by simply matching the common animal names with the characters from the movie:

COW	MILES
HEN	DUKE
MULE	PIP
MOUSE	OTIS
DOG	ETTA



Send in your answers together with your name, age, address and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com on or before October 17. Multiple entries sent will only be counted as single entry. All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prize.

NOW SHOWING

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEPARTED • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 TILL I MET YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
4 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview
1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40
5 THE GUARDIAN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 BARNYARD
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
8 PULSE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 MY FIRST WEDDING
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

ERMITA [illegible]

1 TILL I MET YOU
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 BARNYARD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 THE DEPARTED
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
6 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview
7 THE GUARDIAN
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST [illegible]

1 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview
2 TILL I MET YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
3 THE DEPARTED
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
4 BARNYARD
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
5 PULSE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 MY FIRST WEDDING
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
7 THE GUARDIAN
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES [illegible]

1 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 OPEN SEASON Sneak Preview
5 BARNYARD

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 BARNYARD
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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1 THE GUARDIAN
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 STEP UP

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE WICKER MAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 STEP UP
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE DEPARTED

ANGELES (045) 892-2346

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 THE BREED

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 474-6188

1 THE DEPARTED
2 POSSESSED BY EVIL
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GUARDIAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 THE DEPARTED

BACOLOD (034) 441-3465 (034) [illegible]

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 CRANK
5 SCOOP
6 TWILIGHT DANCERS

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 FLY BOYS
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BREED
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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OPEN SEASON G 12:30,2:30,4:30, 6:30,8:30	MY FIRST WEDDING PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55	BARNYARD G 1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00
THE DEPARTED R13 1:05,4:05,7:05,10:05	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING R18 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	THE GUARDIAN PG13 2:00,7:40,10:30

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THE GUARDIAN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
PULSE 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50
THE DEPARTED 12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40
TILL I MET YOU 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40
MY FIRST WEDDING 1:40 / 3:45 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40
BARNYARD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
DEAD OR ALIVE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00
TALLADEGA NIGHTS 7:00 / 9:30
THE GUARDIAN 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

MALL 5
TILL I MET YOU 2:10 R3 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30
DEAD OR ALIVE 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
THE GUARDIAN 12:10 R3 / 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00
MY FIRST WEDDING 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40 / 6:40 / 8:40
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:00 R3 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
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Regine gives comedy all that she's got

VIEWING MARK REYES' "TILL I MET YOU," the new **Robin Padilla-Regine Velasquez** starrer, is like watching two very different movies in one. The film's first half is zany and feisty, and focuses on the "hate you" aspect of the two lead characters' relationship, while the second radically shifts gears to their "love you" denouement. It's a jarring and dissonant shift, to say the least.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

This is what happens when filmmakers conceptualize projects that aim to be all things to all types of viewers. As a result, considerations like unity and consistency of styles and intentions fly out of the window.

It's a good thing that Regine is able to manage the shift with relative aplomb—a tribute to her versatility as a performer.

Why do Robin and Regine hate each other so much at film's start? It turns out that Robin's surrogate dad, *hacendero* **Eddie Garcia**, is about to marry "*sosyal*" Regine, but Robin smells a rotten fish and believes that Eddie's fiancée is marrying him for his money.

Regine is scared that Robin is about to blow her cover, so she retaliates by lashing out at him and beating him in several impromptu contests, like racing, singing—and getting drunk.

It's during this last competition that Regine comes up with the movie's best scene: When her character gets soused, she ceases to behave and talk in a *sosyal* manner, and reverts to the raucous lush she really is.

The scene is deliciously funny because Regine gives it everything she's got—complete with a great, show-stopping burp in the end—and doesn't care if she looks silly and slatternly in the process.

Unfortunately, Robin doesn't get similarly high marks. He was able to rein in his slapstick and gimmicky tendencies in "La Visa Loca," but they're back in full force in his current starrer.

To make things worse, he's surrounded with similarly slapstick-y supporting actors who add to the movie's decibel level, milking the story's comic situation for all the cheap laughs they're worth.

REGINE/ D3

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

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G1	1 MY FIRST WEDDING	2 THE GUARDIAN	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	4 TILL I MET YOU
G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE DEPARTED	5 BARNYARD	6 THE GUARDIAN	7 TILL I MET YOU
GB1	1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING		2 TILL I MET YOU	
GB3	1 THX PELICULA: 5TH SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE GUARDIAN 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEPARTED 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX THE GUARDIAN GUARANTEED SEATS		2 TILL I MET YOU	
	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	4 BARNYARD	5 THE DEPARTED	
ACC	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 TILL I MET YOU	3 FLYBOYS	4 THE DEPARTED
M2	1 BARNYARD		2 TILL I MET YOU	
	3 THE GUARDIAN	4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	

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